

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO GERASIMOS C. VANS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gerasimos (Gerry) Vans, who is retiring after more than 25 years of distinguished service to this institution. Throughout his years of service to the House, Gerry has tackled a wide range of institutional challenges. In every aspect of his service to the House, Gerry has demonstrated his characteristic professionalism, knowledge, and creativity, and has without exception conducted himself with the utmost integrity.

Gerry, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin began his career with summer intern positions in the House and Senate while attending college. Following his graduation from Marquette University, Gerry pursued a masters degree at The George Washington University while employed in the House mail room. Gerry began his congressional career in earnest following his appointment to the U.S. Capitol Police force where he remained for two years. His next appointment was as the Executive Assistant to the House Sergeant at Arms, where he served as secretary to the U.S. Capitol Police Board and primary Capitol Police liaison for the Sergeant at Arms. Gerry had primary operational responsibilities for major House events and congressional funeral delegations, and was a key staffer in Capitol security planning.

Since joining the Office of the Clerk's front office staff in 1991, he has served under four Clerks, first in a support capacity to senior management, and since 1995 as a senior manager—as Special Assistant, Assistant to the Clerk, 1999, and Deputy Clerk, 2003. Because of his fluency with congressional operations and practice, he is frequently called upon to brief visiting foreign parliamentarians and senior officials, and has participated in various legislative-related conferences.

Gerry has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Lobbying Disclosure Act; the five-year project to move the Legislative Information Management System, LIMS, from a mainframe to a client-server platform; the Document Management Initiative: conversion of all legislative documents to a common Extensible Markup Language (XML) standard; Continuity of Operations: development and planning leading to the first comprehensive House-wide continuity of operations apparatus; and the development of the History and Preservation Office.

Over the years, Gerry's responsibilities have grown to include the day-to-day oversight and operations of the Clerk's 9 departments and 270 employees, which provide legislative and information services to the House and the general public. He is involved daily and directly with such issues as Member of Congress relations, House floor operations, plan-

ning, personnel, procurement, information technology, printing, oversight of vacant congressional offices, and event planning.

There is no doubt that the House as an institution is losing one of its hardest working public servants. Gerry's dedication and professionalism has spanned both Democratic and Republican majorities, during which time his mission has always been to complete any task, big or small, with the same tenacity and thoroughness. Gerry will be dearly missed by the House of Representatives and by all those among us who have had the pleasure of working with him during his more than 25 years of service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this institution, I wish to extend to Gerry Vans our heartfelt gratitude for his tireless service to the House, and wish him the very best as he embarks upon his new career.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT R. RUBANO, JR.

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the superintendent of Farrell Schools, Robert R. Rubano, Jr., and the school board members who have served for over 9 years.

Mr. Rubano not only serves as the superintendent of the schools in Farrell, but also teaches a leadership class to juniors and seniors in the school district 1 day a week. The subjects taught in the class vary from speech preparation to key decision making to job and college outlook. This leadership class has become very popular among students in the Farrell School District.

Mr. Rubano has been the superintendent of the Farrell School District since 1997. Before committing to be the superintendent, Mr. Rubano spent many years as a teacher, then principal. Mr. Rubano served as a team facilitator for a group of 10 who designed new math curriculum for grades K–6. He also assisted in writing the district's Act 178 Professional Development Plan. Mr. Rubano has dedicated his career to bettering the education of young minds.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing all of the hard work and time Robert R. Rubano, Jr. has put in to making the school district better. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual like Robert R. Rubano, Jr.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ROOSEVELT EARLY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Roosevelt Early, a veteran high school educator from Crossett, AR, who died at the age of 72 on February 26, 2006. I wish to recognize his lifetime of dedication to public education and the city of Crossett.

A native of West Helena, AR, Mr. Early earned a bachelor's degree at Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, UAPB, where he played football and sang in the choir. Mr. Early also attended the University of Central Arkansas where he received a master's degree.

Moving to Crossett in 1958, Mr. Early spent nearly a half century as a public school educator at T.W. Daniel and Crossett School District. He began as a shop teacher at T.W. Daniel High School in 1958 and rose to the post of assistant principal of T.W. Daniel Middle School in 1973, and principal 2 short years later of T.W. Daniel High School. Following his tenure at T.W. Daniel, Mr. Early served as principal at Norman Junior High School beginning in 1980 and Crossett High School in 1985.

Mr. Early was active throughout the Ashley County community. He served as director of the E.C. Crossett Community Center, president of the UAPB Ashley County Alumni Association, and was a member of the Ashley County Medical Center Board of Directors, Ashley County Martin Luther King Planning Commission, Phi Delta Kappa Educational Society, Georgia-Pacific Planning Commission, the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, the Arkansas Association of Secondary Principals, Crossett Classroom Teachers Association, Arkansas Education Association and the National Education Association.

As a man of faith, Mr. Early served as chairman of the Deacon Board at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and chairman of the Trustee Board. The Roosevelt Early Memorial Scholarship was started shortly after his death to commemorate and honor the impact he made as an educator at Crossett High School.

As the son of public school educators, I believe there are few jobs more noble than that of educating our Nation's children. Mr. Early spent a lifetime dedicated to this end. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 48 years, Lendora; his daughters, Cassandra and Patricia; his brother, David; his sisters, Thelma, Lola, and Alma, and his grandchildren, Kenyellshia and Chase. Though Mr. Early may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on for generations to come.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
CHARLES AURELIO HUDSON
EYNON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Elizabeth and Teddy Eynon of Washington, DC, on the birth of their new baby boy. Charles Aurelio Hudson Eynon was born on March 17, 2006, at 9:09 p.m., weighing 8 pounds and 7 ounces. Hudson has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

HONORING FRANK G. JACKSON,
MAYOR OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, SHERROD BROWN, MARCY KAPTUR, TED STRICKLAND, TIM RYAN, and I rise today in tribute and recognition of Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson, as he was honored by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party on March 26, 2006.

Mayor Jackson was elected last November to lead the City of Cleveland—a continuation of his lifelong activism and devotion on behalf of our Cleveland community. He is a United States veteran, having served our country in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged, he returned to his East 38th Street neighborhood—where his commitment to making a difference would only grow stronger.

Following his military service, Mayor Jackson armed himself with a focus on educational achievement. He attended classes at Cuyahoga Community College and in 1975, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University. In 1977, Mr. Jackson earned a Master's degree in Urban Studies from CSU. In 1983, after working his way through law school as a night clerk at Cleveland Municipal Clerk's Office, Mr. Jackson earned a law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He worked as an assistant county prosecutor until his 1990 election to Cleveland City Council, representing Ward 5. For 15 years, Mayor Jackson focused his efforts on revitalizing the housing and commercial aspects of the Ward 5 community. He did so by forming vital bonds with neighborhood leaders and development organizations, and by setting a tone of integrity, diligence, commitment and cooperation among City Council members and City administrators—a vital relationship that remains strong today.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in honoring Frank G. Jackson, Mayor of the City of Cleveland, in recognition of his outstanding service and leadership focused on the people of the City of Cleveland. Mayor Jackson's integrity, energy, vision, unwavering service and complete devotion to his constituents continues to illuminate hope and strength throughout the streets of Ward 5 and throughout every Cleveland neighborhood—offering a

vision for a brighter tomorrow for every one of us along Ohio's north shores.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF
GORDON PARKS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as St. Paul and our Nation say goodbye to a legend this month, I rise to lend my support to House Resolution 720, a resolution to honor the life of Gordon Roger Alexander Buchanan Parks. I hope that the House will soon consider this important resolution. Gordon Parks passed away on March 7, 2006 at the age of 93 after a courageous battle with cancer. With strong Minnesota ties, Mr. Parks became a world-famous photographer, filmmaker, and music composer. His work and life are an inspiration to artists and art lovers, and the people of St. Paul will be forever grateful for his contributions.

Mr. Gordon Parks will be remembered as an African American pioneer who used his experiences as a black man to create some of the 20th century's most powerful images for social justice. Mr. Parks was born in 1912, 1 of 15 children. He spent his young adulthood in St. Paul, where he developed his skills as an artist. Parks earned his first professional photojournalist jobs with the Saint Paul Recorder and the Minneapolis Spokesman, which served as catalysts for the great work by the beloved artist we recognize today.

Mr. Parks was a true pioneer. He was the first African American to work as a photojournalist for Life and Vogue magazines. As a trailblazing filmmaker, Mr. Parks was the first African American to write, score, and direct a Hollywood movie, "The Learning Tree." Mr. Parks was part of a generation of African Americans who directed and produced films that starred African Americans, like the film "Shaft." He was also committed to documenting poverty and racial injustice. Mr. Parks used the medium of film to tell the story of the black experience.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Gordon Parks, an artist who taught us about human dignity and the African American experience. St. Paul will always remember him for his many artistic contributions.

CONGRATULING HIGHLAND HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Highland School District for its nomination for the 2006 Rising Star Award presented by People Do Matter, which is part of the Pittsburgh Human Resources Association.

This award was given to the school district because they demonstrated a link between Professional Development, their people practices, and their students' test score results and achievements by using innovative and emerg-

ing practices. They are the only school district to ever receive this award.

The Highland School District will receive the "Rising Star" Award on April 5, 2006 at a dinner at the Rivers Club in Pittsburgh.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Highland School District for receiving the Rising Star Award. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated school district as the Highland School District.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING GENERAL
LEON J. LAPORTE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that General Leon J. LaPorte, Commander of the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces and Commander of the United States Forces Korea, will soon be retiring after a long and distinguished career.

General LaPorte was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and graduated from the University of Rhode Island. He completed the Armor Officer Advanced Course in 1975 and he earned a Master's Degree in Administration from the University of California.

After General LaPorte was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Armor, he served as a Platoon Leader and Motor Officer in Alpha Company, 3d Battalion, 64th Armor. In 1971, he served as a Platoon Commander and Company Executive Officer in the 283rd Aerial Weapons Company in the Republic of Vietnam. He commanded the 3d Battalion, 64th Armor, 3d Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany, and following the Army War College, he served as the G3, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. In October 1990, he deployed with the division to Southwest Asia and was Chief of Staff during Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. In 1997, he assumed the duties of Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operation and Plans, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC. Prior to assuming his current position, General LaPorte served as Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Forces Command.

General LaPorte has earned numerous decorations and badges for his outstanding service in the military. These decorations and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (three oak leaf clusters), the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two oak leaf clusters), an Air Medal ("V" device), an Army Commendation Medal ("V" device), a Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (with Palm), a Kuwait Liberation Medal, an Army Aviator Badge, a Parachutist Badge, and a Ranger Tab.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to General Leon J. LaPorte for his exceptional service to the United States and will wish him all the best in the days ahead.

HONORING ROSENDO CARRANCO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosendo Carranco, an upstanding citizen of Laredo, Texas, who was recently awarded the Spirit of Jerusalem Award by the state of Israel.

It is a great honor for me to enter into the RECORD the accomplishments of Mr. Carranco in tribute to his dedication to the business community, and numerous charitable works that have benefited the citizens of Laredo. After he graduated from Texas A&M University in 1977, he returned to Laredo to start his own accounting firm, Carranco & Lawson, where his wife, Mary, serves as partner. In addition to his work as an accountant, Mr. Carranco works as a real estate developer whose work includes the Cielito Lindo subdivision, and he is also involved in various business ventures that include insurance, oil, and gas. He and his wife, Mary are the proud parents of three children, Andrew, Kathryn, and Robert.

Mr. Carranco is well known in Laredo for his gregarious and outgoing demeanor as well as numerous contributions to community service. He is a beloved coach in the local youth basketball, football, and baseball teams as well as a highly active participant in the Boys and Girls Club, Young President's Organization, United Way, Junior Achievement, Laredo A&M Club, and Daybreak Rotary organizations. His exemplary compassion and his deep commitment to his faith make him a fine role model for young people in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Rosendo Carranco, recipient of the Spirit of Jerusalem Award by the state of Israel.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANDREA MARIE PEREA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrea Marie Perea, who is a two-time State Champion in the sport of Gymnastics.

At 12 years old, Andrea has achieved more in the sport of gymnastics than many athletes will accomplish in a lifetime. In the 2005 Nevada State Championships in Reno, Nevada, Andrea scored first place in 4 of the 5 events that she competed in, including uneven bars, balance beam, floor exercise, and best all around performance, leading her to win her first Nevada State Championship. She became a two-time title holder at the 2006 Nevada State Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she took home first place on the vault, balance beam, and again received the title of best all around.

Andrea's athleticism does not stop with gymnastics. She takes ballet and belly dance lessons, and participates in a Fiesta Flamenca dance troupe. In addition to her athletic achievements, Andrea gives back to the Las Vegas community by volunteering with Salud en Accion, a program that provides outreach

to the Hispanic community on Medicare, Medicaid, and basic health services. Furthermore, Andrea acts as an altar server for the Guardian Angel Cathedral Catholic Church in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Andrea is committed to maintaining her public service, and would like to get more involved with events in her local Las Vegas community. A straight "A" student, she intends to maintain her grades while continuing to practice dance and violin in her spare time. She has set her sights on participating in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, and then taking her gold medal to West Point where she will study medicine, and eventually become a surgeon. With more young women like Andrea Marie Perea, who strive to meet their goals with great ambition and pride, I see a bright future for America.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to honor Andrea Marie Perea and her outstanding accomplishments. I wish her the best in her gymnastics career, as well as with all of her future endeavors.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT PENSION CONFEREES

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, we need common sense, bipartisan legislation to protect pension benefits and to honor the promise of pensions.

I rise to support this motion to ensure the Senate provisions are included in the final Pension bill—especially the provision that ensures airlines like American, Continental, Delta, and Northwest are not forced to terminate pension plans. The Senate provision would provide the critical time needed to fund pension plans promised to employees.

No such provision exists in the House bill. Airlines were promised, in exchange for their support of the House Pension bill, that House leadership would work with them in conference to obtain the relief they wanted—though Republican leadership declined to include their provisions in the House bill. The Bush administration opposes the airline provisions.

We must help airlines avoid the termination of their pension plans. Timing is of the essence. Two of the airlines that would benefit from this provision are currently in bankruptcy and could terminate their pension plans. And, two others could take advantage of this relief.

In September 2005, Northwest Airlines filed for bankruptcy after losing more than \$4 billion since 2001. Northwest's pension plans are underfunded by \$3.8 billion. Without airline relief provisions, Northwest would be required to pay \$3.3 billion in pension funding obligations by 2007 and would likely need to abandon and turn over its pension plans to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. In January 2006, the pilots union agreed with Northwest to freeze the pilot pension plan and replace it with a defined contribution plan. I support the decision made by Northwest and their pilots.

Labor, employees, and airline management strongly support an airlines provision in the Pension bill.

Keep the airlines flying and employees working. Support this motion.

RECOGNIZING GREATER PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO).

The National Association of Women Business Owners was established in Washington, DC in 1975. NAWBO is the only dues-based national organization that represents all women business owners in all industries. It's the voice of the American business woman. 10.1 million women-owned businesses are represented nationwide. Today there are over 80 chapters throughout the United States. The Pittsburgh Chapter of NAWBO was established in 1977 and since then has had the privilege of having two its members serve as national presidents. In 2000, Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of NAWBO was named the fastest growing Chapter in United States.

This year the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of NAWBO has many Make the Connection Award Honorees. The honorees are: Pamela Abdalla of The Salvation Army Family Crisis Center; Bonnie Anton of the American Heart Association; Dr. Joseph Bairn of The Bradley Center; Aggie Brose of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group; Mary Jean Byrnes of Carlow University, Community Education; Beth Caldwell of the Incredible Mom Award; Bonnie DiCarlo of Celebrate and Share; JoAnn Forrester of Celebrate and Share; Shamina Frank of the Antioch Baptist Church; Suzanne Froehlich of the Power Lunch; Bonnie Hassan of A Place for Reiki; Dorothy M. Horvath of ACHIEVA; Tracy Lee Janov of the McKeesport Weed and Seed Program; Marleen Kasbee of the North Hills Community Outreach; Lillian T. King of the St. Cyril of Alexandria Church; Carol MacPhail of the United Way of Allegheny County; Maryann Magra of the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center; Steve Miklas of Calliope, the Pittsburgh Folk Music Society; Susan Miller of WBN North Points North Chapter; Grace Moffett of POWER; Shaela Montague-Phillips of the Meeting of the Minds Publications; Anne Mullaney of Neighbors in the Strip; Martha Murdock of Care Break at Watson Institute; Susanne Parks of ACHIEVA-POWER; Rae Reynolds of UMOJA African Arts Company; Linda Rinchiuso of The Lighthouse; Phyllis Rinsma of Exceptional Friends; Beth Rom of ABOARD—Advisory Board on Autism: Related Services; Barbara Sallo of PowerLink; Sydney Schwartz-Hardiman of WBN North Points North Chapter; Steve Smith of Elliot West End Athletic Association; Mary Sutphen of POWER; Sandra Talley of Morningside Church of God in Christ; Lisa Vandemia of Care Break at Watson Institute; and Andrea M. Williams of the Children's Sickle Cell Foundation.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the honorees of the Make a Connection Award. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania

and a pleasure to salute such hardworking individuals like those in the National Association of Women Business Owners.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
GEORGE ODOM

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of George Odom, a long time resident of my hometown of Prescott, Arkansas who passed away at the age of 70 on February 15, 2006. George was born on August 23, 1935 in Heflin, Louisiana and I would like to recognize his life and achievements.

Raised in Minden, Louisiana, George attended Webster High School followed by service in the United States Army. Upon leaving the Army, he attended Grambling State University where he received a degree in Secondary Education.

Shortly after moving to Prescott in August 1964, George married Dorothy Jones. He led an exemplary life and was extremely active in many different capacities. At Prescott High School he assumed many roles including librarian, history teacher, track and football coach. Additionally, George was a member of the Lions Club, Director of Alcoholics Anonymous, Treasurer of the Youth Organization: Boys II Men, Girls II Women, Treasurer for Ila Upchurch Community Education Center, Prescott School Board Member and President and Director of Prescott Parks and Recreation Department. Following his retirement, George worked part-time at the Bank of Prescott.

George was also very active at Macedonia Baptist Church where he served as Chairman of the Deacon Board, Church Trustee, Church Treasurer, Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent.

Leading by example through a lifetime of dedication, community service, and commitment to children, George has left an undeniable mark on countless students who attended Prescott Schools and on the Nevada County community. Prescott is a better place, a more cohesive community because of George Odom and he will be deeply missed. My heart felt condolences are with his sons, Mario and Corwin; his daughters, Charra and Chandra; his sister Annie Mae Odom Knowles; and his six grandchildren. While George may no longer be with us, his spirit will live on forever in the lives he touched.

TRIBUTE TO LYN NOFZIGER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a grassroots volunteer in the Reagan for President campaign of 1976, I saw firsthand the historic efforts of Lyn Nofziger who died Monday in Falls Church, Virginia.

Mr. Nofziger was crucial for the success of the Reagan Revolution which revitalized the American spirit by building an economy of hope through reducing taxes, by enhancing

our military for victory in the Cold War, and by growing the Republican Party to today's status of majority in the state legislatures, state governorships, the U.S. House, the U.S. Senate, and the Presidency.

His contributions for America were highlighted on March 29, 2006 in The Washington Times:

Few people played as a critical a behind-the-scenes role in the rise of Ronald Reagan and the modern American conservative movement as Lyn Nofziger, who died Monday at his home in Falls Church at 81. An Army ranger who lost fingers to shrapnel during the D-Day landing, Mr. Nofziger left a successful career in political reporting to become a top Reagan adviser.

As spokesman for Mr. Reagan's 1966 campaign for California governor, he was a trusted aide in 1968 when the California governor tried to wrest the Republican presidential nomination away from Richard Nixon. During the spring of 1968, Mr. Nofziger recounted many years later, Mr. Reagan visited Republican Sen. Strom Thurmond, who told the then-governor: "You'll be president some day, young man, but not this year."

Perhaps the most serious political challenge Mr. Nofziger would face during his many years as a senior Reagan aide came in March 1976, during the primaries. President Ford had swept all of the early primaries, and prominent Republicans were pressuring Mr. Reagan to drop out and endorse Mr. Ford. Mr. Nofziger, a stalwart conservative, would have none of it. As political consultant Craig Shirley told Ralph Hallow of The Washington Times: Mr. Nofziger "was the steel in Reagan's back that kept him going in 1976 when everyone else wanted him to drop out of the nomination race before the North Carolina primary."

After Mr. Reagan's election, Mr. Nofziger served slightly over a year as White House political director, before leaving the White House in 1982. He became a lobbyist, but instead of the conventional K Street uniform, he was usually seen with his shirt collar unbuttoned and tie loosened, chomping on a cigar and drinking a concoction of whiskey mixed with milk. The editor of this page, who was a young White House aide during the 1980s, recalls meeting Mr. Nofziger, who had left the government, for lunch. Mr. Nofziger grabbed his White House badge and twirled it, telling him that the same people who wouldn't return his calls before he joined the White House wouldn't return them after he left.

In his final years, Mr. Nofziger established his own blog, wrote poetry and became prolific as a book critic for this newspaper. In one case, Mr. Nofziger wrote a scathing review of a professor's book. The writer complained and Mr. Nofziger responded that he would have written a nicer review if the book hadn't been so bad. But Mr. Nofziger subsequently ended up befriending the professor and they established a friendly e-mail relationship.

Lyn Nofziger—journalist, gruff, cigar-chomping pol, trusted aide, and warm, kind-hearted man—will be missed.

USA PATRIOT ACT ADDITIONAL
REAUTHORIZATION AMEND-
MENTS ACT OF 2006

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme dis-

appointment with S. 2271, the USA PATRIOT Act Additional Reauthorizing Amendments Act of 2006. This bill purports to increase protections for libraries and people who have been issued National Security Letters and Section 215 intelligence orders, though in reality, it offers very little recourse for U.S. citizens.

I voted against the Patriot Act Reauthorization in July 2005, and the conference report in December 2005. Neither version of H.R. 3199 sufficiently balanced the needs of law enforcement to protect our country, with the protection of our civil liberties. In December, I stated my firm belief that it is possible to be safe, free, and to protect security while still respecting civil liberties. Unfortunately, H.R. 3199 did not recognize this reality, and neither does S. 2271.

The amendments that were added make it harder to challenge a Section 215 intelligence order than before. Currently, recipients may challenge the gag order immediately after receiving a Section 215 intelligence order. However, S. 2271 would make the recipient wait one year before having the opportunity to challenge the gag order.

I have expressed in the past my serious concern regarding the use of National Security Letters to access Internet records in public libraries. While this bill attempts to exempt libraries from receiving National Security Letters, it fails terribly. According to S. 2271, libraries are only exempt from National Security Letters if they do not offer Internet access—a preposterous claim in this day and age, and an unrealistic expectation. This exemption does nothing to protect public libraries, or their patrons, from having their privacy invaded by the Federal government, and I do not support this provision.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2271 does nothing regarding the Patriot Act to allay the concerns that Democrats and Republicans alike have regarding the protections of our civil liberties. It is disappointing that the Administration has chosen to embrace extreme measures in the name of fighting terrorism, over protecting the civil liberties we all cherish so much. These need not be mutually exclusive—we can fight terrorism, keep our country safe, and respect the rights and liberties that generations of Americans have fought so hard to uphold. Mr. Speaker, I cannot support these additional amendments and intend to vote against S. 2271.

CONGRATULATING ANDREA FREED

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Andrea Freed for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program in New Castle, PA.

The Missionette Program is sponsored by First Assembly of God in New Castle, PA. It is a national program that is equivalent to the Girl Scout program, except the Missionette Program emphasizes Biblical themes. Andrea has achieved the highest award in the program which includes 27 units with each unit consisting of 4 lessons, a memory verse, activities, and a project. They are required to read the entire New Testament and nine

honor steps are to be completed which include intense memorization, and this all concludes with testing. This is not an easy achievement.

Andrea, a 5th grade student, will be honored May 7, 2006, at First Assembly of God for her outstanding accomplishment.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Andrea Freed for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute outstanding citizens such as Kayla.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BEYKIRCH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to Paul Beykirch, who recently received the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen Award. He has distinguished himself with dedicated service to the community of Sedalia, MO.

The Chamber of Commerce honored Mr. Beykirch for his values, community service, and involvement. Mr. Beykirch has been a member of the Bothwell Regional Health Center's Board of Trustees for the past 16 years and currently serves as its president. He is a former Rotary Club president and is currently the president of County Distributing Company Incorporated. Mr. Beykirch enjoys working with children as an assistant golf coach and as a Cub Scout Leader. I had previously honored Mr. Beykirch by nominating him to serve on the National Security Forum at America's Air War College.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Paul Beykirch and in wishing him luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE MARCEL NOTZON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Marcel Notzon II, who has admirably served Laredo for the past twenty-three years as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Texas. After such a long and distinguished career, Judge Notzon is retiring this month to spend time with his wife of forty-four years, Nora Lee, and his thirteen grandchildren.

It is a great honor for me to enter into the record the accomplishments of Judge Notzon in recognition of his legal career which has spanned over thirty-nine years, and extraordinary service to the federal judiciary. He served his country as a part of the United States Navy from 1956 to 1960, and was honorably discharged from his service. Following his discharge, he attended Laredo Junior College, and went on to complete law school at St. Mary's University, where he graduated first in his class.

Judge Notzon is well-known in Laredo for his compassion for people, including the defendants that come in front of him in the court. He has made great contributions to the community as well through his involvement with the Boys and Girls Club of Laredo, Little League, and other charities since 1974. Early in his legal career, he joined the Laredo Legal Aid Society, an organization that offers legal representation to those who otherwise could not afford it. It is his exemplary compassion, and his deep commitment to his faith that makes him such a great public servant to the community of Laredo.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Judge Marcel Notzon II, who has left a lasting impact on the South Texas legal community, and the country at large.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHUCK" FULKERSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles W. "Chuck" Fulkerson, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, who will retire from the position of Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans' Services, effective March 31, 2006.

Born in Idaho, he graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1958, with a degree in Agriculture Economics. As a Distinguished Military Graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corp, he was commissioned as second lieutenant infantry in 1958. Chuck served in a wide variety of assignments in the U.S. Army until his retirement from military service in 1991. His active duty military career includes two combat tours in Vietnam as an Infantry Officer, assignments in Europe and a tour as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Nevada, Reno. After leaving active service, Chuck served with the Nevada Military Department. He was appointed by Governor Robert List as the Director of the State Selective Service from 1979 to 1985. Recalled to active duty by Governor Richard Bryan in 1985, Chuck concluded his military career as the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the Nevada National Guard. He is a graduate of the National Defense University and his military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal the Air Medal, the coveted Combat Infantry Badge and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with the Gold Star.

Under Chuck's leadership, the Nevada Office of Veterans Services realized significant achievements benefiting Nevada's veterans and their families. The State's Veterans Service Officer staff doubled in size, making it possible for more Nevada veterans to receive their VA benefits and recognition for their service than ever before. His leadership was also instrumental in securing \$9 million for the expansion of the State's two veterans' cemeteries; the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley and the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. Chuck's efforts made possible additional burial plots, columbariums, and new maintenance and administration buildings, greatly increasing the Cemeteries' ability to properly

honor those who served. Additionally, the State's Guardianship Program was expanded under his leadership, affording care to many more indigent veterans residing in the State of Nevada than ever before.

Of his many achievements during his tenure as the Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Service, Chuck is most proud of his efforts to bring skilled nursing services to Nevada veterans in need of long term care through the construction of the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City. Prior to the opening of the State's Veterans Home, Nevada was one of very few states in the U.S. that did not have a state veterans home to care for veterans in need of 24-hour skilled nursing care. Chuck's leadership not only dramatically increased the State's offerings to Nevada veterans, but created a road map for future increases in services for veterans.

Chuck has been actively involved in veterans' issues throughout his career. He is a founder and officer of the Veterans Hospital Foundation in Reno and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the U.S. Army Retired Officers Association. Active in the community, Chuck belongs to the Reno Sunrise Rotary Club where he has been designated a Paul Harris Fellow. He also serves on the Executive Board of the Nevada Area council of the Boy Scouts of America and is a guest lecturer at the UNR and UNLV military departments. Chuck is married to Mary Lee Metzker and has three children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Chuck Fulkerson on the floor of the House. He is a fine American and a true hero to those who have had the honor of knowing and serving with him. He has an unwavering spirit for the veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow. I wish him the best in retirement.

NATIONAL FOOD UNIFORMITY ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the National Food Uniformity Act (H.R. 4167) and in support of the right of every state to enforce their laws and protect the health of their citizens.

This legislation amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to create a national standard for food safety labeling. It seeks to achieve a national standard by overriding most state and local food safety warnings and by prohibiting new ones unless they are identical to national requirements.

If enacted, this legislation would not only compromise consumer safety with a "lowest-common denominator protection" but also seriously undermine state authority. Over two hundred state laws regarding food safety labeling would be superseded by the National Food Uniformity Act. The specter of such a wide-reaching federal measure has prompted thirty-nine state attorney generals to organize in opposition to legislation they say would "strip state governments of their ability to protect their residents through state laws and regulations relating to the safety of food and food packaging."

The attorney general in my state of Minnesota warns that the bill would eliminate alcohol labels on candy products that provide vital information to expectant mothers and nullify thirty years of work by tribal communities in Minnesota to create labeling standards for wild rice, the state's official grain.

The bill does include so-called flexibility provisions, which allow states to petition the Food and Drug Administration to restore current safety regulations. But the process is expected to be slow, expensive and uncertain, costing states \$400,000 per petition. The added federal costs for administering the process are an estimated \$100 million over five years. At a time when government agencies at all levels are struggling to cope with deep cuts in federal funding, these provisions create a frivolous and burdensome bureaucracy that serves only to restore state laws that already exist today.

Proponents of this bill say fears over consumer safety and local authority are unwarranted and overblown. But despite introduction in the past five Congresses, this legislation has never had a full hearing where testimony from experts could be heard and critical questions explored. This lack of transparency and due diligence is unconscionable considering the bill's potentially serious effects to public health.

I proudly stand with consumers, family farmers, physicians, environmentalists, state attorney generals, state agriculture department officials and many other consumer advocates in opposing the National Food Uniformity Act.

CONGRATULATING DESIRAE MONTGOMERY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Desirae Montgomery for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program in New Castle, PA.

The Missionette Program is sponsored by First Assembly of God in New Castle, PA. It is a national program that is equivalent to the Girl Scouts program, except the Missionette Program emphasizes Biblical themes. Desirae has achieved the highest award in the program which includes 27 units with each unit consisting of four lessons, a memory verse, activities, and a project. They are required to read the entire New Testament and nine honor steps are to be completed which include intense memorization, and this all concludes with testing. This is not an easy achievement.

Desirae, a fifth grade student, will be honored May 7, 2006 at First Assembly of God for her outstanding accomplishment.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Desirae Montgomery for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an outstanding citizen such as Desirae.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JACOB ANDREW "DOOLEY" WOMACK

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jacob Andrew "Dooley" Womack of Camden, AR who died on February 16, 2006, at the age of 81.

Dooley was born in 1924 in Dallas County, AR. Upon graduating from Princeton High School, Dooley joined the Armed Services where he served with the 448th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force during World War II. Dooley began a long and distinguished political career in 1950 at the age of 23 while he was a student at Henderson State Teachers College. As a Representative in the Arkansas State House of Representatives, he represented Dallas and Ouachita Counties. Following his tenure in the Arkansas State House, he served in the Arkansas State Senate for 12 years.

For more than a half century, Dooley owned and operated Womack Brothers Realty. Dooley was also involved in the First United Methodist Church of Camden, and enjoyed both hunting and fishing.

Camden, Ouachita County, and the State of Arkansas have lost one of its most ardent supporters. Dooley had a deep love for Camden and South Arkansas, and dedicated a lifetime working to make it a better place.

While Dooley may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched. My deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to his beloved wife of 55 years, Amy; his three sons, Lance, Tim, and Carey; his daughter, Anna; and his grandchildren, Jacob, Wesley, Taylor, Joshua, Erin, Leah, and Diana.

TRIBUTE TO CASPAR WEINBERGER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, America lost a statesman with the death of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on Tuesday in Bangor, Maine.

Secretary Weinberger was the architect of President Ronald Reagan's vision to establish Peace Through Strength leading to victory in the Cold War and liberation of millions of people across Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and Asia.

I am glad to join President Bush's heartfelt praise:

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE DEATH OF CASPAR WEINBERGER

Caspar Weinberger was an American statesman and a dedicated public servant. He wore the uniform in World War II, held elected office, and served in the cabinets of three Presidents. As Secretary of Defense for President Reagan, he worked to strengthen our military and win the Cold War. In all his years, this good man made many contributions to our Nation. America is grateful for Caspar Weinberger's lifetime of service. Laura and I send our condolences and prayers to the entire Weinberger family.

Another fitting tribute was in The Washington Times on March 29, 2006:

"Caspar Weinberger, who died yesterday, was a lifelong Anglophile who embraced Winston Churchill as 'one of my great heroes' for forlornly warning in the 1930s that Europe must re-arm against the German threat. Throughout his distinguished seven years of service as Ronald Reagan's defense secretary, Mr. Weinberger warned of 'some rather deadly parallels' in the threat from the Soviet Union.

While Britain and the rest of Europe effectively ignored Churchill's plaintive pleas, helping to set the stage for World War II, Americans responded to Mr. Reagan's warnings by electing him president. Mr. Weinberger, who earlier served in the Reagan gubernatorial administration during the 1960s, was promptly selected to be the architect of the largest American peacetime military build-up in history. That strategy culminated in American victory in the nearly five-decade-long Cold War.

Barely six weeks into Mr. Reagan's first presidential term, Mr. Weinberger delivered to Congress the administration's first defense budget, which: resurrected the B-1 bomber; greatly expanded the procurement of fighter aircraft for the Navy and Air Force; virtually doubled the purchase of sea-launched cruise missiles; significantly increased the production of tanks and other Army weapons systems; and reactivated World War II battleships as a first step toward building the fabled 600-ship Navy, which would eventually feature 12 aircraft-carrier battlegroups and dozens of the world's most powerful ballistic-missile-carrying submarines.

During Mr. Weinberger's tenure, America spent \$1.7 trillion on national defense (or \$3 trillion in today's dollars). By any fair-minded calculation, it was a bargain. Less than a month after Mr. Weinberger left the Pentagon in November 1987, the world witnessed the first fruits (many others would follow) of his seven-year tenure. On Dec. 8, 1987, Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which required the destruction of about 425 single-warhead intermediate-range U.S. nuclear missiles based in Western Europe and 650 triple-warhead intermediate-range Soviet SS-20 nuclear missiles capable of striking Europe and Asia. Following steady Soviet deployment of SS-20s beginning in the 1970s, NATO began installing the U.S. missiles in Europe in late 1983. Self-styled peace groups on both sides of the Atlantic, including congressional Democrats who preferred the Soviets' self-serving nuclear-freeze offer, pilloried Mr. Weinberger and Mr. Reagan for the missile deployment in Europe. History has recorded who was right.

Known as "Cap the Knife" during his budget-cutting days in the Nixon administration, Mr. Weinberger became "Cap the Saber" in 1981, indispensably helping the president rattle the nation to the cause of its defense. When the Soviet Union imploded in 1991, it did so with a very able assist from Caspar Weinberger. Winston Churchill would have been very proud."

IN HONOR OF MARTIN J. SWEENEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, SHERROD BROWN, MARCY KAPTUR, TED STRICKLAND, TIM RYAN and I rise

today in tribute and recognition of City of Cleveland Council President Martin J. Sweeney, as he is being honored by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party on March 26, 2006.

Councilman Sweeney was born and raised in Cleveland. After graduating from St. Ignatius High School, he enrolled at Cleveland State University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in political science. A natural athlete, Councilman Sweeney was a member of the 1986 Cleveland State Basketball team that reached the "Sweet 16" in that year's NCAA tournaments. He also graduated from the Leadership Cleveland Class of 2004—an organization that unites community leaders from a myriad of fields and areas with a focus on improving the overall quality of life throughout the Cleveland community.

The residents of Ward 20 have entrusted Councilman Sweeney with the direction and well being of their neighborhood by voting him as their representative for four consecutive terms. Last December, Council Representatives also reflected their unwavering faith in his leadership by unanimously electing him as President of Cleveland City Council. Councilman Sweeney also serves the City as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in honor of Martin J. Sweeney, Ward 20 Cleveland Councilman and President of Cleveland City Council, as we join with the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party in recognition of his dedicated service and contribution focused on the residents of Ward 20. Councilman Sweeney's steady leadership and focus on uplifting the quality of life for his constituents serves to elevate the well being of our entire community.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
GEORGE BECKER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of George Becker, former International President of the United Steelworkers of America, a former marine, steelworker, and noble and fine worker for labor who has helped to build a greater United Steelworkers of America throughout his membership.

Mr. Becker was raised in Granite City, Illinois as a second-generation Steelworker. Later he went to work at American City Steel in the summer of 1944.

In 1965, he was named as a USWA staff representative and came to the International headquarters in 1975. In the Safety and Health Department, he was instrumental in establishing some of the first national health standards adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for workers exposed to lead, arsenic and other toxic substances.

Mr. Becker served as administrative assistant to Lynn Williams, after Williams became international secretary in 1977 and international president in 1983. Becker served two terms as international vice president for administration, having been elected to that position in 1985 and re-elected in 1989.

As vice president, Becker chaired the United Steelworkers of America's Aluminum Industry

Conference and guided the union's collective bargaining in the aluminum industry. He led major corporate campaigns, including the campaign against Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation that achieved the significant firing of 1,300 permanent scab replacement workers and the return to work of 1,600 steelworkers after a 20-month lockout.

In November 1993 he was elected United Steelworker's sixth international president and reelected in November 1997. George Becker's presidency was marked by many major achievements. He restructured the union efficiency and political strength. He led the successful merger of the United Rubber Workers into the USWA in July 1995. And in January 1997, he finalized the merger of the Aluminum, Brick and Glass Workers with the United Steelworkers of America.

He also worked as a crane operator at General Steel Castings, and as an assembler at Fisher Body. Becker became active in the United Steelworkers of America as a member of Local 4804 at Dow Chemical's aluminum rolling mill in Madison, Illinois. Working as an inspector in the mill, he was elected successively as a local treasurer, vice president and president.

Becker was a vocal advocate for the United Steelworkers of America in Washington, testifying before Congress and meeting with Congressional leaders and members of the Administration. On the world stage, he was an executive committee member of the International Metalworkers Federation and chairman of the world rubber council of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions.

This man is truly one to be honored and emulated as a great president of the United Steelworkers and a representative of labor who worked tirelessly for workers everywhere.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of George Becker, whose dedication and hard work in representing workers everywhere has helped the growth of the United Steelworkers of America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOLLY
GOODMAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Molly Goodman as she and her family commemorate the tenth anniversary of her victory against ovarian cancer.

Mrs. Goodman, like so many women stricken with this disease, never suspected that her abdominal and gastrointestinal pain concealed a Stage 3 ovarian cancer diagnosis. The cancer, which had spread from Mrs. Goodman's ovaries to parts of her abdomen, was discovered during a surgery to remove her gall bladder.

We can only imagine the worry that must accompany such a diagnosis. The five-year survival rate for Stage 1 ovarian cancer is approximately ninety percent. This figure drops, drastically and devastatingly, to a fifteen to twenty percent chance of survival once the cancer has elevated to Stage 3. Mrs. Goodman was fortunate not only to receive immediate surgery and chemotherapy to treat the

disease, but also to qualify for a limited protocol providing a second round of chemotherapy. No signs or symptoms of the cancer's reoccurrence have since appeared.

I commend Phil Goodman, Molly's husband, for using this ten-year milestone, one of joy and reflection, to contribute to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. By sharing Mrs. Goodman's story, the couple not only celebrates Mrs. Goodman's survival, but also raises awareness about the severity of ovarian cancer.

We here in Washington need to do our part to raise awareness about risk factors and early warning signs for ovarian and other gynecologic cancers. In this Congress and the last, I introduced Johanna's Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act, which would require the federal government to take action to increase early detection of gynecologic cancers and ensure that other women never have to go through what Molly Goodman did. Our bill currently has over 230 cosponsors, and we are doing everything we can to make it law.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing Molly Goodman on this momentous occasion and to share in her hope that we continue to make progress in diagnosing and defeating this terrible disease.

CONGRATULATING KAYLA BARBER

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kayla Barber for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

The Missionette Program is sponsored by First Assembly of God in New Castle, Pennsylvania. It is a national program that is equivalent to the Girl Scout program, except the Missionette Program emphasizes Biblical themes. Kayla has achieved the highest award in the program which includes twenty seven units with each unit consisting of four lessons, a memory verse, activities, and a project. They are required to read the entire New Testament and nine honor steps are to be completed which include intense memorization, and this all concludes with testing. This is not an easy achievement.

Kayla, a 5th grade student, will be honored May 7, 2006 at First Assembly of God for her outstanding accomplishment.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Kayla Barber for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such outstanding citizen such as Kayla.

HONORING BARRY PURVIS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barry Purvis, who was named the 2006

Pennsylvania High School Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals. Dr. Purvis has served diligently for 3 years as the principal of Chambersburg Area Senior High School.

Dr. Purvis has taken a pivotal role in changing the morale at Chambersburg Area Senior High School by improving the school atmosphere and reducing discipline problems. His vision for the school, which rests on a foundation of character-building, has vastly improved the success of Chambersburg Area Senior High School students. Regarded as a forward thinker, Dr. Purvis made major adjustments to the academic curriculum, resulting in the considerable rise of state testing scores and the graduation rate.

Prior to working as principal of Chambersburg Area Senior High School, Dr. Purvis served as principal of Chambersburg Area Middle School, which he led to earn the National Blue Ribbon School designation. He carried his success and experience over to the high school, overcoming significant challenges and earning an even more prestigious award. As the Pennsylvania High School Principal of the Year, Dr. Purvis will compete for the title of National High School Principal of the Year.

Dr. P., as he is endearingly known by his students, has made a great contribution to the betterment of our youth and will continue to enhance the education of many. The Chambersburg Area Senior High School faculty and student body are fortunate to have such a devoted leader. The citizens of Chambersburg and I would like to thank Dr. Purvis for his service and dedication to the education system and the community.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN AFGHANISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 736, a resolution to Condemn Afghan Attempts to Prosecute Converts. I share my colleagues' deep concern regarding the case of Mr. Abdul Rahman and the questions it raises regarding Afghanistan's commitment to religious freedom and human rights. I have sent a letter to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and I submit it for the RECORD.

DEAR PRESIDENT KARZAI: I am writing to you concerning the case of Abdul Rahman, whose conversion to Christianity could have cost him his life under traditional Sharia law.

Along with many in the U.S. as well as in Britain, Germany, Italy, and Australia, I am relieved that Mr. Rahman will not be tried for exercising a right that is guaranteed to him by national and international law. I recognize that you face strong domestic opposition to this decision, but I urge the Afghan government to stand by it and to use this opportunity to demonstrate your Government's commitment to tolerance, the rule of law, and the democratic ideals that are just beginning to take root in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's Constitution stipulates that Afghanistan shall abide by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, which states that "everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief." Additionally, although Afghanistan is an Islamic state, its Constitution expressly grants followers of other religions the right to freely exercise "their faith and perform their religious rites within the limits and the provisions of law." The case of Abdul Rahman highlights the need to define these limits.

Your steady and principled leadership during the uncertain post-war period earned you the admiration and trust of the citizens of Afghanistan, who chose you to defend their hard-won freedoms and rights as their first democratically-elected President. Similarly, the international community has supported your reform efforts and we congratulate you on the major social, political, economic and security improvements in Afghanistan since the defeat of the Taliban.

The strength and legitimacy of your democratically-elected Government will ultimately depend upon that government's ability and willingness to protect and promote the fundamental human rights of all Afghani citizens. While it may be permitted under Islamic Sharia law, the threatened execution of Mr. Rahman would have violated the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Afghan Constitution. We are grateful this man's life has been spared, and we hope that your government will take this opportunity to clarify the supremacy of Afghanistan's constitution within your country's legal framework.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE- FENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RE- COVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4939. Today, Congress continues its owe-as-you-go policy of borrowing and spending, burdening future generations of Americans with an additional \$92 billion in debt and at the same time embracing the Bush administration's disastrous war in Iraq. Giving this administration more borrowed money for billion dollar no-bid contracts without congressional oversight is irresponsible and a policy I can neither justify nor defend.

In a cynical maneuver, the Republican majority has linked nearly \$70 billion more for maintaining U.S. troops in the middle of an Iraqi civil war with the resources needed to assist Katrina's victims and the funds necessary to keep alive the victims of genocide in Sudan's Darfur region. I strongly support providing our fellow citizens of the gulf coast with the resources to rebuild their lives and their communities and increasing our commitment to bringing peace to Sudan. However, I cannot support an administration policy of consistently misleading the American people about the

unsustainable Federal budget deficits and the quagmire in Iraq.

It is an irresponsible budget gimmick to fund the war in Iraq through emergency spending. We are beginning the fourth year of war in Iraq. Clearly the Bush administration was aware that there would be funding needs and had the opportunity to account for those needs in the proposed budget. Instead, the entire cost of this war—over \$300 billion—is deferred to be paid for by future generations. Congress must have an honest debate about our increasing budget deficit and the implications of this debt on our country and our future.

Every American soldier and marine deserves our support, as well as a realistic and honest strategy for success from the Bush administration. They also deserve a White House and Congress with the courage to pay for this war today, not pass the cost on to the children and grandchildren of every American, including every veteran who has sacrificed so much in Iraq.

For the violence and murder to stop and the civil conflict in Iraq to end, it will require Iraqis, not Americans, willing to find solutions to bring security, stability and peace to their country. U.S. troops should never be in the position of being referees in a bloody civil war. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has no intention of drawing down U.S. troops anytime soon. The passage of this bill today will ensure, regrettably, that our troops will remain in Iraq for the foreseeable future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BETHEL APOSTOLIC TEMPLE ON ITS FIF- TIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Bethel Apostolic Temple on the occasion of its Golden Anniversary. On Saturday, April 1, 2006, the Reverend Carol Nash will lead her congregation, along with several guests, to celebrate this milestone at the Church's Humanitarian Awards Banquet to be held at the Miami Embassy Suites Hotel Grand Ballroom. This event will also honor two distinguished members of our community, former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, my mother, and the Reverend Dr. George E. McRae, my pastor and the pastor of Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church.

Founded by the late Dr. Doris R.L. Atkins in January 9, 1956, this citadel of faith in Miami-Dade County has been an unerring witness to the spiritual revivalism that undergirds the power of fasting, faith and prayer. Dr. Atkins was the resilient leader of this church and an inspiration to a remarkable group of pastors, evangelists and bishops who are now ministering to a number of churches throughout South Florida. Dr. Michael Moss took over in 1988, and through his dynamic theological teaching and progressive preaching, Bethel Apostolic Temple experienced a period of tremendous growth. This visionary pastor led his congregation in 1997 to what has now become one of the landmark churches in South Florida.

Reverend Nash assumed the pastorate in 1998 from Dr. Moss, and under her leadership, its burgeoning membership has taken on

a tremendous renewal of faith and its outreach mission has gone above and beyond the confines of our community. With its vision of holistic empowerment, grounded in biblical principles, Bethel Apostolic Temple evokes a spirit of excellence grounded in compassion and charity not only to its members, but to all those who seek refuge and solace in its sanctuary.

With the establishment of the Bethel Temple Community Development Corporation, My Sister's Closet (a boutique for women and families going from Welfare to Work), along with the Bethel Computer Lab, the Bethel Institute for Living, Bethel Partners in Dominion, and its Youth Ministry Council, this faith institution has truly become not only an instrument of spiritual enrichment, but also a vehicle for economic development. It is in this context that I commend the tremendous work of Rev. Nash, and cherish the memory of Dr. Atkins and Dr. Moss who bequeathed to her a vibrant Church and an active congregation.

Through the longevity of its faith-action service, Bethel Apostolic Temple has truly persevered in showing us the Way and expounding for us the Truth that emanate from our knowledge of the Gospels. It is through this ministry that its role has been defined and is wisely articulated by the injunction that the genuine measure of our love for God is conditioned by our commitment " * * * to the least of these."

Indeed, Rev. Nash's timely and inspiring leadership is genuinely admirable. As a servant of God and as a community leader, she has indeed earned our deepest respect and superlative commendation. This is the legacy of Bethel Apostolic Temple on its 50th Anniversary. Our entire community shares the joy of this occasion and extends best wishes for the future.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WOMEN'S HOCKEY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team, which on March 26 defeated the Gophers of the University of Minnesota 3-0 to claim the 2006 NCAA national championship. This is the first national championship won by the Badger women's hockey team, and in fact it is the first NCAA championship for any UW women's team since 1985. This also marks the first Division I women's hockey title won by a school outside the State of Minnesota.

The championship victory was a fitting end to an amazing year for the Badgers, which included a record 36 victories and a Patty Kazmeier National Player of the Year Award winner in junior forward Sara Bauer. The final game was also UW's fifth victory of the season in six games against the archrival Gophers, a team that had dominated the Badgers in years past.

For Badgers coach Mark Johnson, this accomplishment can stand beside his greatest as a player, including the 1977 NCAA men's championship and the "Miracle on Ice" 1980 Olympic gold medal. In each of his 4 years as

head coach, the Badgers have set a school record for victories, showing steady improvement on the way to this year's ultimate prize.

Coach Johnson's players, of course, deserve the bulk of the credit for their own success. And during this year's tournament, no Badger star shone brighter than goaltender Jessie Vetter. A freshman from Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, Jessie allowed one goal during three tournament games. Prior to this year, no goalie had ever recorded a shutout during the women's Frozen Four. Jessie earned two, in the semi-finals and the championship. It is no surprise, then, that she was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

It is, however, not an individual honor but the accomplishment of a team that I wish most to recognize today. Some of the players joked after the game that they had now stolen away from their neighbors to the west the title of "the State of Hockey." Wisconsin couldn't be prouder.

CONGRATULATING FRANCES KOVALESKI UPON BEING NAMED "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Frances Kovaleski of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who has been named "Woman of the Year" by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

Mrs. Kovaleski is a daughter of Marguerite Schmidt Roland and Francis Roland, of West Scranton. Her parents were active in Democratic Party politics and they impressed upon their daughter the political values they shared.

Even in high school, Frances volunteered to work in a Scranton mayoral campaign for former Democratic Mayor James J. Walsh.

Frances graduated from St. Patrick's High School in Scranton and went on to cosmetology school, after which she and a friend opened their own beauty salon.

Frances married Kenneth Kovaleski in 1971 and the couple had three sons. Several years ago, Mrs. Kovaleski worked on the campaign of Linda Munley, who was running for register of wills in Lackawanna County. Mrs. Munley won and appointed Mrs. Kovaleski to serve as her deputy.

Mrs. Kovaleski is also active in other civic endeavors. Besides serving as a member and treasurer in the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women, Mrs. Kovaleski also works tirelessly for St. Joseph's Center, serving as president in 2005 and presidential advisor this year. She also served on its board of directors and many of the committees.

Mrs. Kovaleski served as president of the Society of Irish Women in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Kovaleski. Her devotion to Democratic causes and her commitment to family and community have touched the lives of many people in a positive manner and have improved the quality of life in Lackawanna County.

CONGRATULATING KIMMIE MEISSNER ON HER PERFORMANCE AT THE 2006 WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kimmie Meissner, who on Saturday, March 25, won the gold medal in Ice Skating at the 2006 World Championships in Calgary, Alberta.

Kimmie was raised in Bel Air, Maryland, just a few miles from my home town of Baltimore. She began skating at age 6, and it was then that she began preparing for competition. With the help of coach Pam Gregory, Kimmie has trained at the University of Delaware Figure Skating Club since she was just 8 years old. In 2004, she won the State Farm Junior U.S. Championships. In 2005, she landed the bronze medal at the U.S. Championships and became just the second U.S. woman ever to land a triple axel.

Last February, Kimmie represented the United States at the Winter Olympics in Torino, placing sixth out of 24 competitors. Along with Sasha Cohen and Emily Hughes, she was part of the trio of Americans to finish in the top 10. Although it was her first Olympics, Kimmie performed beyond all expectations and was confident even in the company of her impressive competition.

On Saturday, however, Kimmie truly shone above all others. Her performance was simply amazing; it featured seven triple jumps, including the only two triple-triple combinations of the day. It earned her a personal best 129.7 points—more than enough to land her first place and win the admiration of thousands of fans. Although she entered the final program in third place, Kimmie did not let that discourage her. Instead, the Fallston High School student whose motto is, "Do what you enjoy; enjoy what you do," surprised everyone by winning the championship. In doing so, she became the first woman to win the World Championships in her first appearance since Oksana Baiul's victory in 1993.

Kimmie's performance was special—and I am certain that it will be remembered by her family, friends and fans for a long time. ESPN has called her victory "one of the biggest upsets in World Figure Skating Championships history." After the event, Kimmie remarked, "Standing on the podium and watching the flag . . . was such a proud moment for me." Mr. Speaker, I want Kimmie to know that she has also made Maryland and the United States proud, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her.

HONORING FORMER AIR FORCE CAPTAIN JOHN HAYES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize former Air Force Captain John M. Hayes for receiving The Silver Beaver Award,

the highest award Boy Scouts Councils may grant to a volunteer. John is the Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison in my Irving, Texas, office.

John's devotion to the Boy Scouts of America through the years makes him well-deserving of this award. He is a District Commissioner in the Circle Ten Council and, with his wife, Mary, chaired the Circle Ten Council POW WOW for 2 years. He has also taught POW WOW at the Boy Scouts' Philmont, New Mexico, Training Center for 4 years.

A former Air Force combat pilot, he currently serves as the Senior Vice Commander of the Dallas Chapter of the Military Order of The World Wars. John is also very active in the Dallas Veterans Foundation. He will be a chairman for the Military Order of the World Wars sponsored Youth Leadership Conference in June in Fort Worth, Texas. The conference provides leadership and patriotic training for high school students.

I congratulate John on this high honor from the Boy Scouts. This country thanks him for his dedicated service—both in the military and with the Boy Scouts of America. The 24th District of Texas benefits from having a man with such valuable experience and strong allegiance to his country serve them in my congressional office.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my distinguished colleagues, Representatives EHLERS, BARTLETT, LEACH, FARR, CASTLE, and SHAYS, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which provides the U.S. with authority to manage fisheries in U.S. waters. Our bill would enact critical updates to our current national fishery policy management that will ensure sustainable fisheries well into the future. I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring H.R. 5051.

Both nationally and globally, our fishery resources are stretched to meet increasing demand—Americans alone now consume over 4 billion pounds of seafood annually. Fishery management has improved greatly since the enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act in 1996. Yet too often, we continue to experience overfishing and overcapacity—too many boats and too few fish—throughout our Nation's oceans—a situation that is not sustainable over time. In national policy, we must make the sustainable harvest of our living marine resources and the ecosystems on which they depend our highest priority.

I commend Chairman POMBO, Mr. FRANK, and Mr. YOUNG for their introduction of a comprehensive Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization bill, and I believe its close alignment with S. 2012 is a solid step forward in improving the health of our Nation's fisheries. However, I believe recent advances in marine science and a greater understanding of our complex ocean ecosystems can help shape an even stronger bill. Our bill proposes to move fisheries man-

agement in a positive step toward ecosystem management, incorporating our vastly increased scientific understanding of ocean ecosystems and the rapidly developing body of experience in this approach gained by the Regional Fishery Management Councils in projects around the Nation. It would require the administration to develop comprehensive guidelines, with the councils, to support the drafting of Fishery Ecosystem Plans. Science on ecosystems is very advanced, to the extent that over 200 scientists signed on to a scientific consensus statement on ecosystem management organized by the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea (COM-PASS) on March 21, 2005.

For stocks that are designated as overfished, our bill proposes to require overfishing to end by a date certain. Currently, and as a result of a ruling by a Federal district court which held that overfishing could occur during the rebuilding of the stock, overfishing is a continuing problem for stocks in many parts of the Nation. Out of 175 stocks in the Nation about which the status is known, 53 are overfished. Rebuilding time frames for some species have reached over 40 years in length, during which overfishing may continue under current law. However, the administration supports ending overfishing by a date certain, well within a time in which Regional Fishery Management Councils could act, so that rebuilding time frames become less contentious. The Pombo-Young-Frank bill extends the rebuilding time frame for fisheries from the current 10 year limit under a wide range of circumstances, but does not address overfishing at all. This approach takes us backward, not forward in ensuring sustainable use of our fisheries.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is very controversial, as my colleagues know. The Senate, in its Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization bill, requires the administration to work between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the White House Council on Environmental Quality to better integrate the process required by NEPA and the process required by Magnuson-Stevens for its Fishery Management Plan process. Given that the Resources Committee has held only one hearing on this issue, I believe this is the best approach. Providing the Secretary of NOAA with the authority to waive NEPA for Fishery Management Plans, as the Pombo-Young-Frank bill proposes, is too broad to capture potential pitfalls about which we are only beginning to understand.

Finally, the most important aspect of fishery management is the containment of annual harvest limits within boundaries that support sustainability of fishery stocks. The number of overfished stocks demonstrates our failure to achieve this important limit. The Senate has been engaged in a productive negotiation over this issue—how to establish accountability for the administration and the Councils and to support stronger science in setting and achieving such limits. The Pombo-Young-Frank bill does include many provisions to strengthen the state of fishery management science and the use of science in management decisions, but does not address the need to ensure that fisheries are not stretched beyond the scientifically established limits it provides. While I believe neither the House nor the Senate has achieved consensus on this issue, our bill includes such accountability.

It is our intention to constructively contribute to the coming debate in the House over national ocean fishery management by stressing policy to strengthen the conservation of ocean fish resources while supporting the extraordinary efforts of our administration and Regional Fishery Management Councils. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5051 and join us in this critical policy debate.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DESIGN PIRACY PROHIBITION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Design Piracy Prohibition Act.

Article I section 8 of our Constitution lays the framework for our Nation's copyright laws. It grants Congress the power to award inventors and creators, for limited amounts of time, exclusive rights to their inventions and works. The Founding Fathers realized that this type of incentive was crucial to ensure that America would become the world's leader in innovation and creativity. This truth is still applicable today. We must be sure to continue to reward our innovators with the exclusive rights to their works for limited periods of time. This incentive is still necessary to maintain America's position as the world leader in innovation.

Most industrialized nations provide legal protection for fashion designs. However, in the United States—the world's leader in innovation and creativity—fashion designs are not protected by traditional intellectual property protections. Copyrights are not granted to apparel because articles of clothing, which are both creative and functional, are considered "useful articles," as opposed to works of art. Design patents are intended to protect ornamental designs, but clothing rarely meets the criteria of patentability. Trademarks only protect brand names and logos, not the clothing itself, and the Supreme Court has refused to extend trade dress protection to apparel designs.

Thus, if a thief steals a creator's design, reproduces and sells that article of clothing, and attaches a fake label to the garment to market it, he would be violating Federal law. However under current law it is perfectly legal for that same thief to steal that same design, reproduce and sell the article of clothing if he does not attach a fake label to it. This loophole allows pirates to cash in on others' efforts and prevents designers in our country from reaping a fair return on their creative investments.

Furthermore, the production life cycle for fashion designs is very short. Once a particular design gains popularity through a fashion show or other event, a designer usually has only a limited number of months to effectively produce and market that original design. Further complicating this short-term cycle is the fact that once a design is made public, pirates can now virtually immediately offer an identical knock-off piece on the Internet for distribution. Again, under current law this theft is legal unless the thief also reproduces a label or trademark. Because these knock-offs are of such poor quality, these reproductions not only take away designer's profits, but also damage the designer's reputation.

Chapter 13 of the Copyright Act offers protection for the designs of vessel hulls. The Design Piracy Prohibition Act protects designers

by amending Chapter 13 of the Copyright Act to also include protections for fashion designs. Because the production life cycle for fashion designs is very short, this legislation similarly provides a tailored period of protection that suits the industry—3 years. This legislation further establishes damages for infringing a fashion design at the greater of \$250,000 or \$5 per copy.

As America's fashion design industry continues to grow, America's designers deserve and need the type of legal protections that are already available in other countries. The Design Piracy Prohibition Act establishes these protections, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID
WHETSTONE ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and real pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime friend and a lifetime public servant, John David Whetstone, on the occasion of his retirement after serving as Baldwin County District Attorney for nearly 22 years.

David Whetstone is the consummate professional. Joining the district attorney's office in 1979 as an assistant DA, David has dedicated practically all of his adult life fighting crime and standing up for the people of Baldwin County as the people's attorney. Moreover, he has served the families of Baldwin County and south Alabama with compassion, dedication and a tremendous level of professionalism.

A 1963 graduate of Greenville High School, David went on to serve in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam war era. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1968, and he worked his way through college and law school using the G.I. Bill. David graduated from the University of West Florida in 1970, and from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1973.

In 1984, then-Governor George C. Wallace nominated David to the position of Baldwin County District Attorney. He was subsequently elected to his first 6-year term in 1986 and has been reelected ever since, usually with only token opposition.

Throughout his tenure, David has been a tireless advocate on behalf of all the people of Baldwin County. No one who ever called on David Whetstone didn't get a prompt, personal response.

David Whetstone is known for his powerful and intimidating presence in the courtroom and probably best known for his storytelling. Many will also remember his appearance on "The Phil Donahue Show" after filing more than 200 child support collection complaints in 1 day.

But outside of the spotlight that comes with his office, David has a heart as big as the State of Alabama and as pure as a pound of gold.

He is the type of person that empathizes with people from all walks of life and has a tremendous, caring capacity for those who are less fortunate. David Whetstone wore his title

as the "people's attorney" with pride and he never, ever let his own success in public life go to his head or prejudice his judgment; for David, doing the right thing was the only way to do business.

Mr. Speaker, in 2002, David offered his considerable talents and service to the people of south Alabama when he ran for the Republican nomination for U.S. Congress. While for obvious reasons I am personally grateful that the outcome turned out as it did, I can say with all honesty and candor that had the voters rendered a different judgment, the people of south Alabama would have been well-served by David's passion for public service and by his drive and determination to represent one and all equally.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing John David Whetstone for his tireless efforts and his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District and the entire State of Alabama.

The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and the concern and compassion he displayed for all people in Baldwin County are unquestioned and unparalleled. He has indeed been a genuine asset to the entire State of Alabama. On behalf of the thousands of men, women and children he has assisted over the past two decades, I am proud to say, "Thank you, David, for a job well done."

While I am confident David will continue to remain actively involved in the life of Baldwin County and southern Alabama for many years to come, I hope this new chapter in his life affords him a few more free minutes each day to enjoy the richness of life and the love of his wonderful wife, Lynne, as well as his fine children, Deborah, J.D. and Chris, and the newest Whetstone, grandson John David III.

On behalf of all his friends and admirers throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to David and his family all the best, now and in the future.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
VISITOR CENTER ENFORCEMENT
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, we owe our veterans a great debt of gratitude. Their sacrifices have protected the democratic ideals that are the foundation of our country, and their heroism continues to be an example for all Americans.

That is why I rise today to express my strong support of H.R. 4882, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act. This bill would ensure the proper remembrance of Vietnam veterans and the Vietnam War by designating a site for a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I voted "no" by accident on this important bill yesterday, but strongly support it and intended to vote "yes."

Further, I praise Chairman POMBO for his leadership on this issue, and congratulate him on the overwhelming support he received yesterday on passage of the Act.

As this valuable bill has not passed the Senate yet, I encourage them to take it up as soon as possible and pass it without delay.

For the record, I have been a long time supporter of our Nation's veterans and will continue to support them in their causes and needs.

In fact, I have introduced legislation that would further honor them, H.R. 995, the Combat Military Medically Retired Veterans Act, which allows combat military medically retired veterans who received the Purple Heart to collect their prorated military retirement pay.

Many of these veterans served in the Vietnam War, and gave their all for us and should not be penalized just because they are receiving compensation from the VA. While many disabled veterans go on to enjoy happy, productive lives, many are unable to due to the severity of their wounds.

Under any doctrine of fairness it is our moral obligation to "care for him who shall have borne the battle." This bill is a good step in correcting the inequity of retirement and disability benefit to our combat disabled veterans.

Again, let me express my support for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act and my gratitude for Chairman POMBO's leadership for our Nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as American Red Cross month. This faithful organization strives each day to carry out their motto, "There when you need us." On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank the Red Cross for their important service to those individuals in need.

This month we recognize the vital role played by this organization in communities across our Nation and abroad. Since its founding in 1881 by Clara Barton, this organization has been committed to serving America in peace and in war, during times of natural disaster and national calamity. In 1905, this organization was chartered by Congress "in accord with the military authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States and their armed forces." Since then, the Red Cross has provided communications and other humanitarian services to help members of the U.S. military and their families around the world.

Time and time again, from floods and tornadoes to diseases and terrorist attacks, the Red Cross has led the way in providing disaster relief in times of emergency. By offering clothing, food, shelter, health care, and mental health services, the Red Cross has extended a helping hand and provided comfort and encouragement to millions of people around the world.

The Red Cross is also highly regarded for their efforts in health and safety preparedness. In order to be effective in times of crisis, it is imperative to have adequate preparation. The Red Cross is instrumental in keeping the Nation's blood banks supplied, by organizing and conducting blood drives. The Red Cross has also taken the lead in providing CPR and First Aid training to countless volunteers. In times of trouble, these preparation efforts make all

the difference and embody the true spirit of the American people, which is to help out our fellow man in times of trouble.

In May, the American Red Cross will turn 125 years old. This organization, while having its roots firmly steeped in the past, is eagerly looking towards the future and overcoming the challenges that come our way. I have confidence they will succeed. The Red Cross is a vehicle for the common American to help their neighbor and that spirit will never fade. I commend the Red Cross for serving the United States and its international neighbors for 125 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable on the evening of Tuesday, March 28, 2006, and as a result, was not able to cast my vote on rollcall vote 69. The matter under consideration was passage of the Milk Regulatory Equity Act, S. 2120.

Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have recorded my vote on rollcall vote 69 as "yea" in support of passage for S. 2120, the Milk Regulatory Equity Act.

TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN SOLDIER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from the Ninth Congressional District of Florida. Army Sergeant Michael D. Rowe, from New Port Richey, Florida, was killed by a roadside bomb in Rutbah, Iraq. His death came just before his 24th birthday.

Michael's decision to join the military demonstrates his dedication and service to this nation. Following high school, our young people have many opportunities and wide open doors to pursue their dreams. Michael chose the path of the Army because he believed that it was his honor and duty to serve his nation and protect our freedom. In fact, he had told his mother that the Army would be his career and had re-enlisted for another four years of service shortly before he died. He did not choose this path because he thought that he would one day become a war hero or that this career would provide him a lucrative and extravagant life.

I know it has been a very hard and difficult time for Michael's family and friends, especially since Michael's wife, Rebecca, is expecting their first child in July. I hope they know that the nation thanks him for his service and we appreciate the sacrifices they had to make for us as well.

Let freedom ring where all can hear it and let Sergeant Michael Rowe's memory be eternal.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR ALFRED E. ALQUIST

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former California State Senator Alfred E. Alquist. He is survived by his wife, State Senator Elaine White Alquist; son Alan Alquist; stepsons Peter and Bryan White; and five grandchildren.

Alfred Ernest Alquist was born in Memphis, Tennessee on August 2, 1908. He began his professional life as a railroad yardmaster and transportation supervisor, in which he dutifully served for 40 years. In his time with the railroad industry, Senator Alquist developed and cultivated a keen interest in transportation issues. With a passion for policy nested, Senator Alquist joined his local Democratic Club in San Jose, California, which proved to be a stepping stone for his political career.

Ever the dedicated citizen, Senator Alquist embarked on the campaign trail and was elected to the California State Assembly in 1962. After his years in the Assembly, Senator Alquist was elected to the State Senate in 1966 and became the first full-time Legislature that same year.

Senator Alquist's legislative legacy includes serving as Chair of the Senate's Budget Committee for 15 years. His concern for California's future earthquake preparedness led him to author landmark legislation that created the state's Seismic Safety Commission and the Energy Commission. Senator Alquist spearheaded a bill that established the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and was the pioneer in leading an almost two decade effort to build a state office in San Jose, California. When the building was completed in 1983, it was named in Mr. Alquist's honor.

Senator Alquist retired from the State Legislature in 1996. He was 88 years old when he ended his tenure and made history by becoming the State Senate's longest-serving member.

Senator Alfred Ernest Alquist passed away on Monday, March 27, 2006 at the age of 97.

I had the great pleasure of being Senator Alquist's seatmate while we served together in the Senate. Senator Alquist touched the lives of many people and his legacy will remain vivid for generations to come. His genuine concern and vision for the future have all made the state of California a much better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 59, 60, and 63, had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 44, 46, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, and 67, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

GOSPEL MUSIC WEEK

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, beginning this weekend, more than 3,000 individuals will gather in my hometown of Nashville to celebrate one of the most exciting and fastest-growing segments of the music industry. While most people around the world think of Nashville—Music City—as the place to come to enjoy the best country and bluegrass music in the world, Nashville is also home to another powerful music force: the Gospel Music Association.

From April 1st through April 5th, Nashville will host Gospel Music Week. It is five days of concerts, worship services, performance showcases, educational seminars and exhibits, all culminating on Wednesday evening with the GMA Music Awards. Known as the Dove Awards, this year's ceremony will be held at the Grand Ole Opry House and hosted by Rebecca St. James and Kirk Franklin, both Grammy and Dove Award winners themselves. St. James and Franklin will also perform during the evening's program that will feature artists ranging from soulful gospel to guitar driven pop to powerful quartet harmonizing and more.

The sold-out event is a testimony to the popularity and power of gospel music today. Christian and gospel music sales have increased from \$381 million in 1995 to over \$700 million annually, an 80 percent increase over the last decade. Over 43.5 million units of Christian and gospel music CDs, cassettes, digital albums, and digital tracks were sold in 2005. That figure represents over 6 percent of all music sales in 2005 and ranks higher than Latin, Soundtracks, Jazz or Classical releases.

As John W. Styll, president of the Gospel Music Association has said, this growth in the Christian and gospel music isn't surprising. "The heart of gospel music may be in the lyrics, but the soul is in the passion with which these artists perform."

Clearly, the world is passionate about gospel music and the many outstanding artists who will appear in Nashville in the coming days. I salute each of these individuals, and the Gospel Music Association, as they prepare for the 37th Annual GMA Music Awards and Gospel Music Week and another year of inspiring performances that touch the hearts and souls of music lovers worldwide.

REGARDING RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY SEEKING DOCUMENTS CONCERNING WHITE HOUSE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL INFIRMITY OF S. 1932

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I and a number of my colleagues are introducing legislation to investigate the White House's knowledge of the constitutional defects of S. 1932, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, at the time the President signed the bill into law.

On February 8, 2006, President Bush signed into law a version of S. 1932 that was different in substance from the version the U.S. House of Representatives passed on February 1, 2006. The House-passed version of the legislation required the Medicare program to lease "durable medical equipment," such as wheelchairs, for seniors and other beneficiaries for up to 36 months, while the version of the legislation signed by the President limited the duration of these leases to just 13 months. As the Congressional Budget Office reported, this seemingly small change from 36 months to 13 months has a disproportionately large budgetary impact, cutting Medicare outlays by \$2 billion over the next 5 years.

Under the U.S. Constitution, a bill cannot become law unless the same version is passed by both Houses of Congress and signed by the President. It appears that the Republican congressional leadership knew that the process of enacting S. 1932 violated this principle. Now evidence is mounting that the President and his staff may have knowingly participated in this constitutionally infirm process.

As I wrote to former White House chief of staff Andrew Card on March 15, I have learned that the Speaker of the House advised the White House of the differences between the House-passed bill and the bill presented to the President before the President signed the legislation. This account was confirmed in a March 22 Wall Street Journal article, which reported that the Speaker's chief of staff "called a high ranking White House official" and "asked the Administration to delay proceedings until the problem could be addressed by the House and Senate." Nevertheless, the President signed S. 1932 into law without any action by the House and Senate to address the problem.

This information has serious constitutional implications. When the President took the oath of office, he swore to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." If the President signed S. 1932 knowing its constitutional infirmity, he would in effect be placing himself above the Constitution.

The President's decision to authorize the National Security Agency to conduct warrantless wiretaps despite Federal laws forbidding the practice has raised questions in the minds of many Americans about whether he considers himself bound by the laws enacted by Congress. The mounting evidence that the President signed the Reconciliation Act into law knowing that it differed from the legislation passed by Congress now raises the issue whether he considers himself bound by the provisions of the Federal Constitution.

Given the constitutional issues at stake, it is imperative that Congress exercise its oversight powers to examine what the President and his staff knew about the defects in S. 1932 and how they considered and acted on any such information. The resolution of inquiry I am introducing today would advance such a congressional inquiry by requesting that the White House provide Congress with all documents relating to information the White House received about the difference between the version of the bill the House passed on February 1 and the version the President signed on February 8.

BACKGROUND

Last fall, the House and Senate passed different versions of the Deficit Reduction Omni-

bus Reconciliation Act of 2005. During the House-Senate conference committee on the bill, a significant last-minute issue arose in the conference involving how long Medicare should pay for durable medical equipment, DME. Existing Medicare law provided for payments for DME by Medicare under a fee schedule for an unlimited period of time. In an effort to reduce Medicare spending, the conferees tentatively agreed to reduce the duration of Medicare payment to just 13 months.

This proposal, however, generated objections from a Senator and Representative from Ohio, where a major manufacturer of oxygen equipment is located. To accommodate their concerns, the conference report reduced the duration of Medicare payments for most DME to 13 months, but directed Medicare to continue to pay for oxygen equipment for 36 months. The final conference report was filed on December 19, 2005.

The House passed the conference report on S. 1932 on December 19, 2005, by a vote of 212–206.

The Senate considered the conference report on December 19, 20, and 21. During that consideration, several points of order were raised against the report and sustained as violating the congressional budget process. A motion was made to waive these points of order but that motion was defeated. The effect was to defeat the conference report in the Senate.

On December 21, the Senate passed S. 1932 with an amendment that reflected the contents of the conference report, minus the items that generated the points of order. The vote in the Senate was a tie, and Vice President CHENEY cast the deciding vote. This bill, as amended, was then sent back to the House for its concurrence.

In the process of transmitting the bill, as amended, back to the House, the Senate clerk made a significant substantive change to the legislation. This change extended the duration of Medicare payments for all DME to 36 months, the same time period provided in the Senate amendment for oxygen equipment. The Senate clerk realized the mistake, and the Republican House leadership was informed of the error in January, several weeks before final House floor action was scheduled to occur.

Such errors in formal messages between the houses are not unprecedented. They are recorded in the House precedents as having occurred as long ago as March 13, 1800, and as recently as July 12, 2005. They are typically handled by sending the legislation back to the Senate for the mistake to be corrected.

The response by the Republican leadership to the error in S. 1932, however, was without precedent. It constitutes a violation of the House Rules and of the Constitution itself.

Apparently concerned that any additional vote in the Senate could endanger passage of the legislation, the Republican leadership did not seek to correct the problem. Instead, the Republican leadership brought the legislation to the House floor on February 1 without revealing to the Democratic leadership or the body of the House that the 36-month period in the legislation before the House did not represent the legislation passed by the Senate.

On February 1, the House voted on the version of the bill, as amended, that contained the DME mistake. The vote was extremely close, 216 to 214. As a result of this vote, the

House and Senate had voted for different bills, the House having adopted a version that provided for 36 months for DME and the Senate having adopted a version that provided for 13 months.

Because the budget legislation originated in the Senate, the official version was returned to the Senate before being transmitted to the President for his signature. At this point, a Senate clerk made a second substantive change in the legislation, revising the House-passed text to reflect the original Senate-passed amendment. This change restored the 13-month period for coverage of DME other than oxygen equipment.

On February 7, the budget legislation was presented to the President. The documents transmitted to the President included an attestation by House Speaker DENNIS HASTERT and President pro tem of the Senate TED STEVENS that the legislation had been passed by both the Senate and the House.

On the morning of February 8, the White House Office of Management and Budget notified Republican congressional staff that the version of the legislation presented to the President was not the same as the version of the legislation passed by the House. This information was conveyed to the office of House Speaker HASTERT. The Speaker's chief of staff then called senior staff at the White House to advise the White House of this mistake and to request a delay in signing of the legislation.

The Wall Street Journal recently published an account of the communications between the Speaker's chief of staff and the White House. According to the Wall Street Journal, the Speaker's office "confirmed . . . that the Illinois Republican had asked the administration to delay proceedings until the problem could be addressed by the House and Senate." Indeed, the Wall Street Journal reported, "When the Speaker and Senate Majority Leader . . . went to the White House for the Feb. 8 ceremony, they expected only a 'mock ceremony'—not a real signing of the parchment that had been presented in error."

On the afternoon of February 8, despite the communications from the House Speaker, the President signed the bill. The version the President signed is the version that reflected the Senate-passed amendment, not the House-passed text.

THE NEED FOR THE RESOLUTION

Over 100 years ago, the Supreme Court addressed whether a bill could become law if the version signed by the President differed from the version passed by the House and Senate. In the case of *Field v. Clark*, 143 US 649 (1892), the Court held that the President could rely on the attestation of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate that the legislation before the President was the same as the legislation that passed the Congress. But the Court also recognized that the outcome would be different if there were a "deliberate conspiracy" to ignore the Constitution. As the Court wrote:

It is said that . . . it becomes possible for the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate to impose upon the people as a law a bill that was never passed by Congress. But this possibility is too remote to be seriously considered in the present inquiry. It suggests a deliberate conspiracy to which the presiding officers, the committees on enrolled bills, and the clerks of the two houses must necessarily be parties, all acting with a common

purpose to defeat an expression of the popular will in the mode prescribed by the constitution.

It now appears that the possibility that a President would knowingly sign legislation that did not pass Congress is no longer "too remote to be seriously considered." In fact, this is exactly what appears to have happened when President Bush signed the Reconciliation Act.

To learn more about this matter, I wrote the President's chief of staff, Andrew Card, on March 15, seeking information on the President's knowledge of the bill's constitutional infirmity. When the Wall Street Journal reported on March 22 that Speaker HASTERT's office had informed the White House of the problems with the legislation, I joined Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI in sending a second letter to the White House. Unfortunately, there has been no White House response.

I therefore urge my colleagues to support the resolution of inquiry I am introducing today. The American public deserves a detailed explanation of what went wrong with the enactment of S. 1932—and assurance that government leaders will not ignore basic constitutional requirements regarding the legislative process.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI DR. H.
JOSEPH SIMCKES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Rabbi Dr. H. Joseph Simckes, who has just retired after 29 years of service to the Hollis Hills Jewish Center.

As the spiritual leader of the Hollis Hills Jewish Center, Rabbi Simckes' dedication and compassion to our community has been unparalleled. I have had the great honor of knowing this intelligent, wise and kind-hearted individual, both on a personal level and as an advocate for the numerous important issues, and, particularly, support for the state of Israel, that we have worked on together.

Throughout his extraordinary career, Rabbi Simckes has been deeply and profoundly involved in the education of Jewish youth. His strong support of Jewish education was evident early in his career through his role in helping to found the first Solomon Schechter Day School in Boston. Rabbi Simckes has also led over 40 student-groups on tours throughout Israel. I have seen first hand the importance Rabbi Simckes places on education through the important work that he has done helping sculpt today's Jewish curriculum and the vast knowledge and rigor that he displays in his moving sermons. The wisdom he has shared both inside and outside of his congregation has improved and enriched the lives of thousands in the community.

Rabbi Simckes is also a trained therapist, whose compassion and guidance have comforted both old and young. Rabbi Simckes has been a pillar of strength throughout his tenure counseling, comforting, and sharing in the pain and joy of the whole community.

Rabbi Simckes has stood with the Queens Jewish Community during our most important life-cycle moments: births, bar-mitzvahs, wed-

dings, and, of course, deaths as well. Always warm, always accessible, Rabbi Simckes has guided our community as pastor and friend.

Our community has been blessed to have such a devoted and passionate leader. Though Rabbi Simckes will be missed his role as congressional rabbi, his spirit and convictions will remain as a permanent legacy for the community. The importance he placed on learning, and his deep devotion to the Jewish people and their faith, have inspired us all, and we look forward to his continued involvement in our lives.

To Chana Simckes, on behalf of the entire community, I want to thank you for sharing your husband to us so readily and for so long. Without your love and support neither he, nor we, could have made it so far, and for so long, together.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing my leader, my pastor, my guide, and my friend, Rabbi Dr. H. Joseph Simckes for his 29 years of service to the Hollis Hills Jewish Center. We send him our very best wishes in his years of well-earned retirement.

COMMENDING HAITI FOR HOLDING
DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Haiti for holding successful democratic elections on February 7, 2006. I would also like to congratulate their chosen successor, Mr. Rene Préval.

I commend the people of Haiti for their active commitment to and unbridled belief in democracy. On such an auspicious occasion, the best way we can honor the Republic of Haiti is by continuing to lend our support through economic and humanitarian policy that encourages development, not dependency.

While elections are the necessary first step towards democracy in Haiti, there still remains a long road ahead. It is crucial that we, the United States, do not continue to perpetuate the legacy of interference and neglect in Haitian affairs.

We must work with the newly elected President of the Republic of Haiti, Rene Préval, and we must work with Haitians in both Haiti and the U.S. to make their dreams of sustained democracy and prosperity a reality.

Several of my distinguished colleagues, myself included, have a significant number of Haitian constituents in our district. It is my sincerest hope that we will work to bring their home country out of the grips of poverty and despair once and for all so that Haiti's rich, yet tumultuous, past will finally evolve into a future of sustained success.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I would like to use this opportunity to address this House to explain my vote on H.R. 4939, the Emergency War and Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006, which this chamber considered on March 16, 2006.

Despite my misgivings for the direction of our Iraq policy, I do not believe our troops, who are fighting so bravely, should be penalized for the mistakes in judgment of our civilian military leadership in the White House and the Pentagon. I also believe we need to continue our obligation to the people and states who fell victim to Hurricane Katrina. For these reasons, I supported the passage of H.R. 4929, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

The funds in this bill will enable our soldiers and marines on the ground to uparmor their vehicles. There should be more outrage from the American public that they were deployed without adequate equipment from the beginning. But they are there, and it is vital that they have the equipment necessary to protect themselves against attack. Moreover, more money is provided in this bill to help our troops detect and destroy improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Although I disagree with the administration's conduct of the war, I do believe the one way we can bring our troops home sooner is to provide Iraqi security forces with the training and equipment they need to provide for the common defense of their own country and take the fight to the insurgency. Ultimately, the fate of their country will rise and fall on the Iraqis' ability to provide for their own security.

To further help our troops, the money in this bill will take care of the health care needs of their families and cover the projected shortfall in the defense health care account. It also honors the obligation Congress made last year to increase the military death gratuity to \$100,000 from \$12,000 and subsidized life insurance benefits that were increased to \$400,000 for the families of fallen loved ones.

The bill also helps needy families offset the high cost of heating fuel by providing an additional \$750 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Finally, the bill honors what I feel is our country's obligation to help the Gulf Coast region by appropriating \$19.1 billion in disaster relief, community development and levee reconstruction monies.

These programs deserve our support. We cannot turn our backs to protecting

the safety and welfare of troops in harms way or ignore those who have gone homeless as a result of Hurricane Katrina. These people need our help and that is why I voted to support this emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

RETIREMENT OF JUANITA
CONKLING

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Juanita Conkling who, for the past 40 years, has served this esteemed body in the offices of the House Sergeant at Arms and the Chief Administrative Officer. In April of this year, Juanita will officially end her tenure working for this body and her contributions will be remembered for many years to come.

Juanita came to the House of Representatives on May 1, 1965, after working 1 year for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She came to work initially for the House Sergeant at Arms and, most recently, has been the payroll/benefits administrator in the Office of Members' Services.

Much has changed in this body and on Capitol Hill in the 40 years Juanita has been here. Eight different Presidents, from Lyndon B. Johnson to George W. Bush, have given State of the Union addresses before Joint Sessions of Congress. Twenty Congresses have come and gone, along with countless Members and staff. All the while, Juanita has remained consistent, doing her job serving the Members of this body.

Juanita has had the responsibility of ensuring that the Members of Congress were paid on time each month. She has advised Members, new and old, on their ongoing options relative to their compensation and benefits. And she has been a friend to countless Members and their families.

I am proud to call myself a friend of Juanita Conkling. And on the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives I want to extend my deepest appreciation for her friendship and outstanding contributions to this body. May she have many wonderful and exciting years ahead fulfilling her retirement dreams.

IN TRIBUTE TO LORRAINE CARTER

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a compassionate leader and true visionary from the Fourth Congressional District, Lorraine Carter. For over 35 years, Mrs. Carter has operated the VE Carter Child Development Center, and has served as forceful advocate for low-income children and their families.

Mrs. Carter came to Milwaukee from Nebraska in 1958, and worked as a special-education teacher before starting the VE Carter Child Development Center. Inspired by her

own upbringing, she strove to provide a loving, stable and supportive environment for the young children she encountered in Milwaukee. VE Carter Child Development Center, one of the first childcare centers owned and operated by an African-American woman in Milwaukee, has grown into a city institution, with five centers that serve almost 500 children and employ over 150 workers.

Mrs. Carter advocated for quality childcare for low-income children long before its connection to lifelong success was widely acknowledged. Her work with children has taken her deeply into the lives of the families she serves. She has a passion for working with single mothers, helping them develop stable home lives for their children and assisting them in identifying and overcoming obstacles to their own success. In addition to VE Carter Child Development Center, she also operates a social service agency that serves nonviolent offenders—many of them parents—assisting them with finding employment and supporting their families and communities.

Mrs. Carter's leadership extends throughout the State, not only as an accomplished and articulate childcare advocate, but also as an advocate of education more generally. She has served on the board of the Wisconsin Technical College System, working to ensure that education and skills development continue to be accessible to low-income parents, helping them move out of poverty and create a better life for their children.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons and many more, I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Mrs. Carter's numerous and profound contributions to the Fourth Congressional District. I thank her for her love of children, her commitment to their families, and her visionary leadership in Milwaukee.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND JOSE
EUGENIO HOYOS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Jose Eugenio Hoyos, a distinguished member of our community who has dedicated his life to serving the less fortunate through his vocation in the Catholic Church.

The Rev. Hoyos began his commitment to exemplary community service over 20 years ago when he was ordained into the priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Pedro in Buga, Colombia. From there he continued his studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL, where he earned his master of divinity.

After completing his studies, he returned to Colombia where he became an associate pastor at the Parish of St. Juan De Avila in Bogotá and taught both philosophy and religion at nearby colleges. He remained in Colombia for several years until he was relocated to Northern Virginia where he is currently serving as director of the Spanish Apostolate for the Diocese of Arlington.

Since arriving in Northern Virginia 16 years ago, Rev. Hoyos has dedicated his life to serving the public community in many different ways. Beginning in 1992, Rev. Hoyos envisioned an organization with the purpose to re-

cruit and organize professionals to assist immigrants as well as the neediest people in the community. He founded Marcelino Pan Y Vino, Inc., a nonprofit organization that has earned worldwide recognition for its work with the National Institutes of Health in assisting those with leukemia, AIDS, cancer, and those in need of an organ transplant. Most recently, his organization raised \$25,000 for Katrina disaster relief in the gulf coast.

Rev. Hoyos is the founder of the radio program called "Catholic Newsletter" and the TV show called "Community and Religion Dose" a program of prayer and faith that is aimed at spreading a positive message to alcoholics, gang members, and the troubled youth. He is also a columnist for various local and international papers that reach the Hispanic community.

Not one to forget his roots, Rev. Hoyos founded and is president of Colombia Integra, an organization that gives Colombians, who have fled their native land, the tools needed to become active members of our society.

Over the years, Rev. Hoyos's deeds have not gone unnoticed by the community he cares so deeply about. He has been recognized as "Hispanic Man of the Year" by the staff of "Diario Nacion" a Washington, DC, newspaper. The Alexandria Police Department named him "True Community Hero." He has been selected as "Washingtonian of the Year" by the Washingtonian Magazine. Last, but not least, Rev. Hoyos was granted the honor to carry the Olympic torch from the Atlanta Olympics through the streets of Arlington.

Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Jose Eugenio Hoyos has been responsible for touching thousands of lives over the course of his career. He is truly a beacon of light putting his faith into action. For his dedication, the people of northern Virginia are genuinely grateful.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI DAVID
WISE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi David Wise, who in August began his tenure as Rabbi of the Hollis Hills Jewish Center.

A native of Toronto, Ontario, Rabbi Wise grew up as an active member in the educational programs and youth groups of the Conservative movement. He continued his Judaic involvement at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, where he received a Masters degree and was ordained a Rabbi. Upon completion of his studies, Rabbi Wise began his rabbinical career at Temple Beth El in Somerset, New Jersey.

Rabbi Wise is tremendously dedicated to his congregation and the surrounding Jewish community. For years, he has worked to help congregants read Torah, haftarah, and to increase their skills as prayer leaders. Rabbi Wise is also active in the synagogue's educational programs, encouraging both children and adults in their exploration of Judaism. With an open door and welcoming smile, Rabbi Wise serves as a friend and mentor to any congregant seeking guidance, as well as

those who want to deepen their Jewish learning and commitment.

Rabbi Wise plays many roles in promoting the growth of a strong Jewish community and this involvement has been a staple of his career. During his years in New Jersey, Rabbi Wise taught rabbinic literature in the upper-school of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Raritan Valley. An active Zionist, Rabbi Wise also led the first ever Beth El congregational trip to Israel. As the vice president for special programming of the New Jersey Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Wise helped organize a spiritual retreat to the Princeton Theological Seminary after the High Holiday Season. Rabbi Wise was also a member of the steering committee for Jewish LIFE, a cooperative body of synagogues and Jewish institutions striving to bring adult learning to the community.

In addition to promoting Jewish education throughout New Jersey, Rabbi Wise has served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County and Ramah Day Camp of Raritan Valley. Rabbi Wise also offered his services as a chaplain to the Franklin Township Police Department in New Jersey.

On behalf of the entire community, I am delighted to welcome Rabbi Wise, his wife, Judy Krinitz, and their two children, Jordana Nechama and Elijah Mordechai to our part of the Big Apple. We look forward to many years of his spiritual leadership as our pastor and our friend. Together, we will continue our efforts to make the Queens Jewish Community a place that our children and families are proud to call our home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House to join me in welcoming and honoring the new spiritual leader of the Hollis Hills Jewish Center, a man of humor, knowledge, and wisdom, Rabbi David Wise. We send him our very best wishes.

THE TRADE PREFERENCE EXTENSION AND EXPANSION ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today Representative JEFFERSON, Representative McDERMOTT and I are introducing the Trade Preference Extension and Expansion Act. There are three key aspects to this legislation.

First, the act would extend for 1 year the trade benefits provided to developing countries under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences ("GSP") and the Andean Trade Preference Act ("ATPA"). Both of these programs currently are scheduled to expire at the end of 2006. Our trade preference programs are critical, not just to workers and businesses in developing countries, but to U.S. workers and businesses. It is important that we extend these programs immediately in order to provide our trading partners, as well as U.S. manufacturers and retailers, the predictability necessary to make business and investment decisions for the future.

I have heard some of my colleagues suggest that we should let these programs lapse in order to pressure our trading partners to agree to the demands of U.S. negotiators in ongoing bilateral and multilateral trade nego-

tiations. I agree with my colleagues that we should be seeking the best deals possible with each of our trading partners. However, I disagree with the notion that the United States should threaten all of our developing country trading partners, many of which are struggling to pull themselves out of poverty, with the elimination of current trade benefits in an ill-considered attempt to strengthen our hand at the negotiating table.

I do not mean to suggest, however, that our current trade preference programs should never be changed to reflect new realities in trade and the rules of the WTO. For that reason, the Trade Preference Extension and Expansion Act calls for only a 1 year extension of GSP and ATPA. It is important to evaluate how well these programs are working for workers and businesses both in the United States and developing countries—and to consider whether changes should be made to improve the programs. In fact, Representative McDERMOTT, Representative JEFFERSON and I sent a letter to Chairman THOMAS today requesting that the Ways and Means Committee hold hearings as soon as possible to consider the future of GSP and ATPA, as well as the African Growth and Opportunity Act ("AGOA"). I believe it is important that the Congress and all interested stakeholders begin to investigate and consider this issue immediately, as it is likely that Congress will make changes to these programs next year in order to implement agreements negotiated as part of the Doha Development Agenda round of World Trade Organization negotiations.

The second key aspect of the Trade Preference Extension and Expansion Act is the extension and expansion of benefits provided to sub-Saharan Africa under AGOA. In the year since the expiration of global textile and apparel quotas, sub-Saharan Africa's exports to the United States of apparel fell by 16 percent, and the sector has lost as many as 100,000 jobs. Further, the textile and apparel industries in sub-Saharan Africa face many challenges beyond the elimination of global quotas, including competition from well-established and sometimes subsidized producers, such as China, and inadequate infrastructure and other supply-side constraints.

In recognition of these challenges, the Trade Preference Extension and Expansion Act would extend until December 2007, the current duty-free benefits provided under AGOA for apparel made in least developed African countries from third country fabric. If this benefit is not extended, it will be reduced in half on October 1 of this year, putting at risk the fledgling apparel industries that have provided vitally needed jobs and economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Act also would establish a simpler, value-added rule of origin for apparel and extend additional benefits to the textile and agricultural sectors under AGOA. These provisions are intended to enable the textile and apparel industries in sub-Saharan Africa to compete, given the current market reality in the region, which is that African textile mills cannot generally produce fabric in sufficient quantity and variety to meet the needs of African apparel producers or market demand. In addition, these provisions are intended to promote sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa by promoting the diversification of the economies of countries in the region, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Representative McDERMOTT, Representative JEFFERSON and I have put forward these ideas regarding the expansion of benefits for textile, apparel and agricultural products under AGOA as a way to start a discussion among other Members and stakeholders about the best way to promote sustainable economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa. We recognize that sub-Saharan Africa faces a wide variety of challenges and that there are potentially several different approaches that could be taken to promote the long-term health of the region. We look forward to working with our colleagues, interested parties in the private sector and civil society, and AGOA country governments to gather additional information about the best ways to address the challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa today, and we stand ready to work in Congress to ensure that the United States continues to play a leadership role in promoting economic development in the region.

The third key aspect of the Trade Preference Extension and Expansion Act is a Sense of the Congress resolution calling on the President to make a determination as soon as possible regarding the extension of AGOA benefits to Liberia. The October 2005 elections in Liberia represented a key step in building peace in Liberia, following nearly two decades of civil war. Further, the election of Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as President of Liberia marks an important milestone for Africa, as President Johnson Sirleaf is the first elected female President in African history. President Johnson Sirleaf has laid out a multifaceted government agenda emphasizing security, public and private-sector led revitalization, good governance and anti-corruption efforts, regional and international cooperation, and political reconciliation and inclusiveness. President Sirleaf Johnson also has made the improvement of workers rights a high priority. In light of recent progress in Liberia and need to promote economic growth in the country, I believe it is important that the President extend AGOA benefits to Liberia as soon as possible.

I urge my colleagues to join Representatives McDERMOTT, JEFFERSON and me in supporting the Trade Preference Extension and Expansion Act.

THE COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a Washington-based non-governmental organization—the Coalition for International Justice—will close its offices this week after 10 years of service to the cause of justice around the world.

Serving as Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission for that same period of time, I have worked closely with the Coalition and seen the effect of its work. Ten years ago, the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina was a priority in U.S. foreign policy, a conflict in which numerous war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were committed. Many of us fought for the inclusion of basic justice as an element in our country's policy response, and an international tribunal was fortunately created for that purpose. At the time,

however, support was lukewarm at best; many saw efforts to apprehend and bring to justice those responsible for heinous crimes as too far-reaching, perhaps unachievable, and potentially detrimental to efforts to end the conflict through diplomacy.

The Coalition for International Justice was a tireless advocate of another view, one that saw no true peace, nor the resulting long-term stability, in Bosnia or anywhere else, without appropriate consideration of justice. Time has since shown how correct that view has been. Bosnia and Herzegovina has come a long way since the mid-1990s, in large part because those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were instead removed from positions of authority and made accountable at the tribunal located in The Hague. Many of those people might still be at large had the Coalition, among others, not advocated a tough policy toward those powers who were harboring and protecting them. Many of us can remember the State Department's hesitancy, let alone that of many European foreign ministries, to these tough measures. Today, however, the United States maintains an effective conditionality on assistance to Serbia and, along with the European Union, on Serbia's integration efforts due to the particular failure to transfer Ratko Mladic to The Hague. Similar linkages apply to another at-large indictee, Radovan Karadzic.

Representatives of the Coalition for International Justice participated in numerous briefings and hearings of the Helsinki Commission on this subject, and were always available to provide useful information when justice in the Balkans became part of our policy debates.

The Coalition similarly assisted the international criminal tribunal established for Rwanda in its efforts to be fair, responsible and effective in the provision of justice. Its mandate later expanded to help the investigation and prosecutions process in East Timor, to establish a tribunal for Khmer Rouge crimes in Cambodia, and to create a Special Court for Sierra Leone. It helped track the finance of such notorious figures as Charles Taylor, Saddam Hussein and the Khartoum elites, in addition to Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic. Most recently, the Coalition has been part of the international effort not just to hold those responsible for the genocide in Darfur accountable from the crimes already committed but to protect the civilian population there from continuing to be victimized.

Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated the work of the Coalition for International Justice as a resource of accurate information, and as an advocate to a reasonable, practical approach to the sometimes controversial subject of international justice. While its board and staff may have concluded that the Coalition has largely accomplished the tasks it was created to address, they know, as do we, that horrible crimes continue to be committed against innocent people in conflicts around the world. I am confident that the dedicated individuals who made the Coalition such a success will continue, through other organizations and offices, in the struggle for international justice.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HEIGHTS PLAYERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a talented and distinguished community theater group, the Heights Players, as they embark upon their 50th anniversary. It is an honor to represent the Heights Players in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding community organization that has brought the art of performance to adults and children throughout Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, the Heights Players were founded in 1956 by a small collection of theatre-lovers and successfully produced their first production, *Hasty Heart*, in February of 1957. The Heights Players eventually established themselves as a nonprofit educational corporation of New York, offering a workshop program and expanding the group to extend opportunities to new performers and directors.

For the past 50 years, the Heights Players have continued to assume an active role in the community by presenting performances for homeless groups, senior citizens and hospital-bound children. In 1962, the Heights Players moved to their current location at the historic 26 Willow Place in the basement of the Alfred T. White Community Center. The Heights Players, under their Board of Directors, continuously seek to enhance the quality of their performances, facilities, and organization.

The Heights Players now enjoy a large membership of 200 subscribers and a group mailing list of 2,500 supporters, including those from the Brooklyn Heights Community along with the tri-state area. The Heights Players also continue to provide special Theater for Children performances, traveling entertainment to Brooklyn hospitals, nursing homes, and Hale House in Manhattan, and special performances to nearly 1,000 homeless New Yorkers annually. They have been awarded for their ongoing laudable community efforts by Brooklyn Borough President Abe Stark, the Brooklyn Heights Association, the City Council, and Borough President Howard Golden, who designated April 4, 1987, as "Heights Players Day."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and committed service of the Heights Players as they continue to offer their artistic talents and performances for the benefit of the community.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the actions of altruistic community leaders such as the Heights Players.

AFRICA'S LEADING LADY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first elected female president of Liberia, for her straightforward opinion that addresses jurisdictional control for prosecutorial legal action against

Charles Taylor, the accused butcher and mutilator of thousands of Africans during one of the deadliest and bloodiest regimes of modern day Liberia and four other African states.

I enter into the RECORD an article from the New York Daily News entitled "Africa's Leading Lady" which reveals that African women are coming to the fore, trying to right all of the wrongs put and held in place by a succession of brutal and corrupt African men. Emphasis is placed on the atrocities carried out by Taylor and his followers and mentions how Taylor's greed has "casually" reduced Liberia to a pauper state.

I personally believe that Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, also known as the "Iron Lady" for her determination and tenacity, is the very best person to lead Liberia from its dark, tormented past into a bright and productive future.

[From the New York Daily News, Mar. 30, 2006]

AFRICA'S LEADING LADY: PRESIDENT'S GUTSY MOVE VS. WARLORD TEACHES VALUABLE LESSON

(By Stanley Crouch)

When Charles Taylor, the ex-Liberian thug president, was arrested in Nigeria trying to escape the clutches of international law, he was in a car with 110-pound bags of embezzled money. Well, he was not traveling light.

Taylor had risen to power after seven years of civil war, had won an election with 75% of the vote and had casually reduced his country to a pauper state. He is accused of starting conflicts in four other African states and encouraging the chopping off of hands, feet, lips and noses in Sierra Leone so that the terrified population would not hinder the sale of stolen diamonds.

Taylor is one of those African butchers who could have modeled himself on King Leopold II, the 19th-century Belgian king. Leopold's colonial policies in the Congo resulted in countless slaughters and many mutilations in the interest of producing a profitable rubber crop.

Leopold became a pariah among European courts, but naturally black-faced variations in Africa have wielded iron-fisted power without compunction, worrying only about being overthrown by some ambitious fellow monster in the military. If given the time, these monsters have fled to another African country, or to the Arab states, or even to the French Riviera, where they have been able to cool out and impress everyone with their pilfered riches.

As the Taylor case has proven, that trend in African politics may be coming to a screeching halt. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first elected female president in all of Africa, had requested that Nigeria hand over Taylor to the authorities in Sierra Leone, where he would have to face charges of individual butchery, mutilation and crimes against humanity.

African women are coming to the fore, trying to right all of the wrongs put and held in place by a succession of brutal and corrupt African men. African justice has been as porous as Swiss cheese for more than 40 years and the African people have suffered enormously while black Americans in or out of elected office, in or out of the civil rights establishment, have either ignored the horrors wrought upon the people or have figured out ways to blame it all on others.

The women of Africa are more interested in dealing with the facts than maintaining a cosmetic front of innocence. In a number of places across Africa, we see women rooting out corruption and conceiving laws that will bring them closer to a standard of human equality.

Interestingly, Oprah Winfrey, who keeps turning up, has been a model. Winfrey has inspired African women to rebel against rape and kidnap, to defy misogynistic laws and to face up to the ravages of AIDS.

It is both sobering and exciting to realize that American women, having been taught much by the civil rights movement, can inspire African women by example, and that elected or appointed African officials can lead the way through the ingrained ignorance, poverty and disease that block human fulfillment. Such human force explains the mystery of African optimism.

REMEMBERING HARRY PARRISH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to remember Mr. Harry Parrish, member of the Virginia General Assembly and decorated World War II pilot from Manassas, VA, who passed away on March 28 at the age of 84.

Harry Parrish served over 50 years in elected office, including 13 terms in the House of Delegates and chairman of the Finance Committee since 2000, Manassas council member, and mayor. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest serving member of the House of Delegates. During his 12 years as town councilman and 18 years as mayor, Harry helped guide the transformation of Manassas from a small Virginia town to a thriving, lively suburb. As a member of the House of Delegates, he was known for conducting himself in a bipartisan manner, putting Virginia first. I was proud to call Harry my friend. He was a true Virginia gentleman.

Harry was also a decorated World War II pilot. As part of the British Royal Air Force he flew C-47s over the Himalayas delivering supplies, weapons and other cargo, from India to China. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his valiant efforts. He served as a reservist in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as a colonel.

I insert for the RECORD the Potomac News obituary from March 28. A northern Virginia native, Harry will be deeply missed by the people of Manassas, and at home by his family and wife, Mattie, of 62 years.

[From the Potomac News, Mar. 28, 2006]

HARRY PARRISH DIES AT 84

(By Bob Lewis)

RICHMOND, VA—Harry Parrish, who defied death as a decorated World War II pilot and headed the state's most powerful tax-writing panel in the General Assembly, died Tuesday. He was 84.

Parrish had been in intensive care at Prince William Hospital for about three weeks, suffering from pneumonia. His death was announced by Sen. John Chichester during a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Square.

Parrish had been in declining health for at least two years but continued a full legislative schedule, including acting as chairman of the House Finance Committee, one of the most powerful leadership positions in the General Assembly.

Last year, Parrish warded off a Republican primary challenge for his House seat—payback from his party's own conservative wing for defying its anti-tax orthodoxy during the 2004 tax battle.

Parrish, the House of Delegates' oldest member, was in his 13th term from Manassas.

He was born Feb. 19, 1922, in Fairfax County and moved as a child with his family to Manassas, then a small, rural town. He graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 and later from Virginia Tech.

He joined the Army Air Force in 1942 and began pilot training in Alabama, but was assigned to the British Royal Air Force, where he completed his training.

He was part of an allied mission to fly lumbering transport planes laden with heavy supplies, weapons and ammunition from India into China over the world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas.

The C-47s like the one Parrish flew took off from crude, sometimes muddy airfields in the Indian jungles and struggled to heft their cargo over icy peaks that doomed many flights. Because Japan controlled land routes through Burma, the airlifts over what pilots called "the Hump" were the only way to supply the legendary Flying Tigers, which bombed Japan from bases in China.

Parrish received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He left active duty in 1946 but flew as an Air Force reservist in wars with Korea and Vietnam before retiring as a colonel and command pilot.

In 2002, as one of few remaining World War II veterans in the General Assembly, Parrish helped secure Virginia's \$334,000 contribution to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"I kind of regret us being the last state, but I'm glad we finally came around," Parrish said in an interview, pained that Virginia was the last state to contribute to the memorial.

Parrish was elected to the House in 1981 as part of an insignificant Republican minority. Before that, he served for 12 years on the Manassas Town Council and for 18 years as mayor. During his mayoral term, Manassas transformed from a town into a thriving, affluent city.

Through a total of 53 years in elected office, Parrish won abiding respect as a listener and problem solver from Republicans and Democrats. In 2000, when the GOP ended a century of Democratic dominance in the House, Parrish became co-chairman and later chairman of the Finance Committee, where his evenhandedness endeared him delegates and senators of both parties.

"He's my best friend," Democratic Sen. Charles J. Colgan of Prince William said in a 2004 interview. "He and I are the only Democrat and Republican in the General Assembly ever known to have held a fund raiser together."

Parrish was willing to exert his independence at times, even at the risk of his own party's wrath and his prized House leadership post.

By two votes, Parrish's committee in 2004 advanced a bill to increase taxes by about \$1.4 billion. When the bill came before the full House for a decisive vote that April, Parrish was among 17 Republicans who sided with House Democrats to pass it. The vote was critical to ending a 115-day session that divided GOP legislators.

In addition to his public duties, Parrish also is chairman of the board of his family's business, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Co.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AMY DUERKSEN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to mourn the loss and honor the life of PFC Amy Duerksen, who died the 11th day of March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Private Duerksen was no stranger to the United States Armed Forces. She was third-generation military. Her father is MAJ Douglas W. Duerksen, an Army chaplain at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, MD. Her grandfather, Wayne Duerksen, is a veteran of the Navy, having served in World War II. And her sister, April Duerksen, is also a member of the Army, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In April of last year, Amy joined the Fourth Combat Support Battalion, First Brigade, Fourth Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, TX. Her unit was deployed on Christmas Day. On the eighth day of March 2006, Private Duerksen suffered injuries in a noncombat-related incident, and she was not able to recover from those injuries.

She is remembered as a dedicated soldier who greatly loved her country and faithfully served her fellow Americans by fighting for this great nation. Private Duerksen was full of passion and life. She possessed a strong faith and willingly shared that with others.

Private Duerksen risked her life to serve our country. She deserves our unending admiration and appreciation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me in honoring the life of PFC Amy Duerksen. She was a remarkable soldier and patriot.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. CHAMBERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michael J. Chambers, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the Brooklyn community.

Mr. Chambers joined the North Brooklyn Health Network in November 1998. As the senior associate executive director for the Department of Psychiatry, he is responsible for the operation of an extensive network of emergency, inpatient, and outpatient services to the residents of Bushwick, Bedford Stuyvesant, Fort Green, Williamsburg, and Greenpoint.

Prior to his service at the North Brooklyn Health Network, Mr. Chambers was the Administrator of the Department of Psychiatry at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens. He was also instrumental in the development of its new Department of Psychiatry. Before pursuing a career in hospital administration, Mr. Chambers had a distinguished 14-year career with the New York State Office of Mental Health, New York City Regional Office, where he served as director of certification for New York City. He is an associate in the American

College of Healthcare Executives and is president and CEO of Integrated Behavioral Systems, Inc., a behavioral healthcare consulting firm.

Additionally, Mr. Chambers is an adjunct faculty member of the Department of Human Services at Touro College and earned his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Albany and his masters of public administration degree from the Baruch College School of Business and Public Affairs. He is active in community affairs, particularly the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Babylon, NY.

Mr. Chambers lives on Long Island with his wife of 22 years, Peggy, and their four daughters Keri, Christine, Kimberly, and Meaghan. The Chambers family spent this past Thanksgiving at the Circle of Life Ministries in Copiague, NY, cooking and serving dinner to 600 individuals who would otherwise have had no place to celebrate the holiday.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Michael J. Chambers, as he offers his talents for the betterment of our local communities.

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY: AGAIN,
RESIGN FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR
COUNTRY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the record an opinion piece by Eugene Robinson in the March 21, 2006, edition of *The Washington Post* entitled "The Planet of Unreality." Mr. Robinson opens his article by the statement: "This is not good." He is referring to the absolute detachment from reality evidenced by Vice President CHENEY most recently on the Sunday March 19, 2006, program "Face the Nation."

On "Face the Nation" Vice President CHENEY made the jaw-dropping statement that his earlier predictions about the war in Iraq including his infamous pre-invasion prediction that U.S. troops would be "greeted as liberators" and his more recent "the insurgency is in its last throes" were "basically accurate and reflect reality."

Let me second Mr. Robinson's statement: "This is not good." I can find nothing good about the lies, the deliberate effort made by the Vice President to connect the 9/11 attack to the war in Iraq, and the continued rosy pictures of the Iraq War the Vice President continues to make; statements that are unconnected to facts in any way. "This is not good."

The Vice President is either deliberately restating his opinions long-ago proved to be lies, or perhaps more frightening, he is now entirely in the grip of pathological self-delusion.

I believe the Vice President is continuing his lies and deceit with no care as to whether what he says is true, harmful to our country or deepens even more the profound distrust of the Bush Administration the American people have expressed. The Vice President hurts Americans in a variety of ways. This country, this shining democracy is being hurt, possibly, permanently, by just being the second in com-

mand and unaccountable to anyone in an unprecedented way. The fact that President George Bush does not fire him, hold him accountable, or contradict his false statements, creates the assumption on the part of the rest of the world that the U.S. is a rogue state with a Cheney-Bush regime bent on imposing its un-American policies of pre-emptive war, torture of prisoners, disregard of its Constitution and the will of its people. The statements and conduct of Vice President DICK CHENEY which can only be characterized as secretive, un-American and unconstitutional create the impression that the American people no longer care about their democracy. His conduct creates the impression that America is a dictatorship, or worse becoming a fascist state. The Vice President's intentional disregard of the Constitution, the Congress and the people of this great country sets the worst standard of conduct for the fledgling democracies the President states we must bring to every country in the world.

Mr. CHENEY's statements so contrary to the facts are far worse than merely confusing and dizzying; they are damaging and unmindful of the best interests of this country. Mr. CHENEY's reckless disregard for the truth is undermining the already low credibility and esteem in which our government is now held. When the Vice President undermines the credibility of our government he is also violating the Constitution of the United States which he is sworn to uphold.

It is no small thing for the Vice President of the United States to have the inglorious reputation of being the power behind the President's war conduct and treatment of prisoners, but to also be recognized as the American official who has most steadfastly insisted, contrary to the truth, that we went to war in Iraq because the attack of September 11, 2001 was carried out by terrorists trained, encouraged or given haven by Saddam Hussein.

I find the Vice President a source of deep embarrassment because of his persistent efforts on behalf of his agenda, his devotion to "the ends justify the means" mentality and his lack of acknowledgement of the deaths of 2,300 Americans, the wounding and maiming of 17,000 more and the tens of thousands of deaths and maiming of innocent Iraqi civilians.

It is clear to me that the Vice President should be removed from office if he does not have sufficient patriotism and good grace to resign for the good of the country. He is engaged in "business as usual" with no concern for how this "business" affects his country or the world.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 21, 2006]

THE PLANET OF UNREALITY

(By Eugene Robinson)

This is not good. The people running this country sound convinced that reality is whatever they say it is. And if they've actually strayed into the realm of genuine self-delusion—if they actually believe the fantasies they're spinning about the bloody mess they've made in Iraq over the past three years—then things are even worse than I thought.

Here is reality: The Bush administration's handpicked interim Iraqi prime minister, Ayad Allawi, told the BBC on Sunday, "We are losing each day an average of 50 to 60 people throughout the country, if not more. If this is not civil war, then God knows what civil war is. Iraq is in the middle of a crisis. Maybe we have not reached the point of no

return yet, but we are moving towards this point. . . . We are in a terrible civil conflict now."

Here is self-delusion: Dick Cheney went on "Face the Nation" a few hours later and said he disagreed with Allawi—who, by the way, is a tad closer to the action than the quail-hunting veep. There's no civil war, Cheney insisted. Move along, nothing to see here, pay no attention to those suicide bombings and death-squad murders. As an aside, Cheney insisted that his earlier forays into the Twilight Zone—U.S. troops would be greeted as liberators, the insurgency is in its "last throes"—were "basically accurate and reflect reality."

Maybe on his home planet.

Donald Rumsfeld, meanwhile, was busy on *The Post's* op-ed page, abusing history. Leaving Iraq now, he wrote, "would be the modern equivalent of handing postwar Germany back to the Nazis." The bizarre analogy was immediately disputed by foreign policy sages Henry Kissinger (who noted that there was "no significant resistance movement" in Germany after World War II) and Zbigniew Brzezinski (who just called the comparison "absolutely crazy").

George W. Bush, who speaks as if he has ascended to an even higher plane of unreality, marked the third anniversary of the invasion Sunday by touting a "strategy that will lead to victory in Iraq." I know that "victory" is a word that focus groups love, but did anyone else hear an echo of Richard Nixon's "secret plan" to end the war in Vietnam? Does anyone else remember that there was no "secret plan"?

It's reprehensible when our highest elected officials act cynically, as I believe this administration has done—Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and the rest knew the evidence for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was less than conclusive, but they hyped it anyway to build support for an invasion they were determined to launch. It's dangerous when our leaders act cluelessly, and the Bush White House has done plenty of that as well—experts who called for a much bigger invasion force were silenced and shoved aside, assurances that Iraqi oil revenue would defray U.S. costs turned out to be a sick joke, and there was no effective plan to get the electricity turned on, much less deal with thousands of insurgents.

But cynicism and cluelessness are one thing. Actually being divorced from reality is another. Do Bush et al. really see only the democratic process they have installed in Iraq and not the bitter sectarian conflict that process has been unable to quell? Do they realize that whatever happens, there's not going to be a neat package, tied up with a bow, labeled "victory"—certainly in the 34 months (but who's counting?) that the Bush administration has left in office?

Rumsfeld, I think, gets it. "History is a bigger picture, and it takes some time and perspective to measure accurately," he wrote in his op-ed piece, the whole tone of which reminded me of Fidel Castro's famous declaration as he was being jailed after his first, failed attempt at revolution: "History will absolve me." Condoleezza Rice seems to get it, too, telling Australians the other day that "beyond my lifetime" people would appreciate what the administration had done for the Middle East.

But what about the two men at the top?

Cheney lamented this weekend that "what's newsworthy is the car bomb in Baghdad," and "not all the work that went on that day in 15 other provinces in terms of making progress towards rebuilding Iraq." Yesterday Bush recounted a successful anti-insurgent operation in one town, calling it a good-news story that people wouldn't see in their newspapers or on their television screens.

Fine, blaming the media is a time-honored tactic. I just hope they're being cynical about it. I hope they don't really believe the nonsense they're trying to sell.

**CHARLES TAYLOR WILL NOW BE
HELD ACCOUNTABLE**

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a great day for peace and justice in West Africa. Former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, was arrested and sent to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor will face 17 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of international humanitarian law for crimes committed against the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor committed horrific crimes during his presidency and his arrest will no doubt send shockwaves through Africa and a strong message that tyranny will not be accepted by the people and that you cannot escape justice.

I would like to commend Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for her courage in calling on Nigeria to hand over Charles Taylor. She did this with no small risk to herself and her fragile country. It is my hope that the international community will come to Liberia's aid and help her as she rebuilds her war torn country.

This is a new dawn for West Africa. The United States and the international community stand with the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone and honor them for their courage to seek justice.

**A TRIBUTE TO MR. ELLIS A.
MERCER**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Ellis A. Mercer and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the Brooklyn community.

Ellis A. Mercer was born on March 8, 1960 in Brooklyn, New York. He is the son of Mr. Mercer and Mamie Mercer, and the oldest sibling of Eva Maria Mercer-Andrews.

He received his education in the New York City public schools, graduating from Brooklyn Technical High School with a Regents Diploma in Mathematics and Electronics. Mr. Mercer then attended Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., where he received an A.S. degree in Data Processing, A.S. degree in Accounting, and a B.S. degree in Computer Systems Management.

After receiving his A.S. degree in Data Processing, Mr. Mercer was hired as the University's Assistant Athletic Director. As the Assistant Athletic Director, he managed the University's Sports Complex and oversaw the University's Intramural Sports Program in which over 1,500 students participated. This is where his passion for youth involvement in education and sports began. In 1990 he returned to New

York and was hired as the City of New York Parks & Recreation's Brooklyn Sports Coordinator, where he coordinated and supervised various citywide programs, including Reebok's Coup de Hoop and the Junior Knicks Basketball clinics and tournaments. Mr. Mercer volunteered to recruit and coach the New York's National Youth Game Volleyball Team in Atlanta, GA. He implemented and supervised the Pro-Am NAACP's (3 on 3) and Midnight Basketball tournaments in Brooklyn. He also umpired softball games for the New York City Housing Authority. At the Brownsville Recreation Center he was employed as the After-school Director. After only three years as director, his program was recommended for use as the model program for all City of New York Parks & Recreation After-school programs. Mr. Mercer's program included extensive homework: help and tutoring that helped students sustain the academic standards set by the Board of Education. He also conducted workshops for SAT and ACT testing. He promoted local and overnight college and university tours, including tours to Howard University and Johnson & Wales University. Mr. Mercer also conducted free workshops for over 500 adult participants seeking postal employment.

Mr. Mercer is now a manager at the Jackie Robinson Recreation Center located in Harlem, New York. He also served as Chairman of the DC37, Local 299-2005 election committee.

As Worshipful Master of African 459 Lodge #63 for the past 2 years, Mr. Mercer continues to see that his lodge serves its community by sending 5 children to Camp Eureka in Upstate N.Y., issuing 3 scholarships to students enrolling in, or attending college, and continuing the lodge's annual feeding program and Christmas toy drive.

Mr. Mercer is a deacon at The Friendship Baptist Church. He also serves as the President of the Brotherhood Men's Committee at Friendship.

Mr. Mercer is married to Sandra Elaine Gibson-Mercer and they are the proud parents of one daughter, Britney Elise Mercer.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Ellis A. Mercer, as he offers his talents for the betterment of our local and national communities.

**TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. OLYMPIC
CURLING TEAM**

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the U.S. Olympic Curling Team for its outstanding success at the XX Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy.

By defeating Great Britain 8-6, the men's team, which consists of Shawn Rojeski and John Shuster of Chisholm, Minnesota, Joe Polo of Cass Lake, as well as fellow Minnesotans Pete Fenson, Scott Baird and Coach Bob Fenson, won the first Olympic medal of any kind for a curling team from the United States.

The women's team members, Courtney George of Duluth, along with Cassie Johnson, Jamie Johnson, Jessica Schultz, Maureen Brunt, and Coach Neil Doese, also dem-

onstrated great skill, determination and mental toughness during the competition in Turin.

Scottish immigrants introduced the sport of curling in North America, first to Canada in 1759 and then to America around 1832. Today, there are approximately 16,000 curlers who belong to 135 clubs in 32 states. Curling debuted as a medal sport at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. I know that the pursuit of excellence demonstrated by Team USA at the 2006 Olympic Games will inspire many people across the country to take up the sport.

Through hard work and outstanding dedication, the team succeeded on the sports world's most prestigious stage. Above all, the sportsmanship the team members demonstrated during the competition embraced the true Olympic spirit.

The curling team's bronze medal victory was truly a golden moment for the State of Minnesota and the entire nation. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating the U.S. Curling Team and in wishing them continued success.

**COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH**

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Women's History Month.

Since 1987, the month of March has been designated to give special prominence to the women who have made lasting contributions to our society.

Over the last two centuries, the achievements made by women have been nothing short of phenomenal.

During this month, we have an opportunity to recognize Rosa Parks for revolutionizing a successful movement that forced racial integration in America through her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a public bus.

Additionally, we must acknowledge Coretta Scott King, the first Lady of the Civil Rights movement and widow of the incomparable Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who transformed her grief into an aspiration to eradicate social injustice and achieve equality for all.

We must also remember Hattie McDaniel, whose dynamic career as an acclaimed singer and actress on film, television, and radio led her to become the first African-American to win the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award in 1940. This great achievement also resulted in her becoming the 29th image to appear on the Black Heritage commemorative stamp series in January 2006.

Mr. Speaker, what makes these icons so extraordinary is that many of their actions, and sacrifices have not only added to the richness and depth of American history, but made the present better for the world.

Yet, even as we remember the famous women who have made history by traveling in space, like Mae Jemison and Sally K. Ride, or curing disease, like Marie Curie and Mary Eliza Mahoney or leading revolutions like Sojourner Truth or Alice Paul, we should also be mindful of those who have devoted their lives to the people of their communities, never seeking the spotlight of history.

Maryland Delegate Lena K. Lee, a master legislator, teacher, union leader, and a lawyer blazed a trail of distinguished public service and is one such extraordinary woman.

In 1967, Delegate Lena K. Lee began a 15-year term as the first African American female lawyer in the Maryland House of Delegates. During her tenure, she dedicated her energy and talents towards eradicating social inequalities and advocating for women's rights. Her life exemplified excellence and I am proud to say that The Lena K. Lee Post Office bill was signed into law on March 20, 2006 and a postal office in my district has officially been renamed after her.

In addition, several days ago, when I learned that Weptanomah Carter, the daughter, wife and mother of prominent ministers from my district, had died, I was reminded, once again, of just how much one determined woman can accomplish.

The spotlight of public acclaim did not fall upon Weptanomah Carter, but her achievements—as teacher, theologian, author and community-builder will forever forge a place in our hearts.

Throughout her marriage to Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr., a friend and teacher of mine, the Carters worked together, and became a powerful team. In 1965, they brought an uplifting Gospel to the people of Baltimore—a message both spiritual and social that spoke to the hearts of people in our community.

Under their care, New Shiloh Baptist Church would grow into the 5,000-member choir for God that it has become today—a House of God that also is a social powerhouse for the betterment of its community.

Trained as an educator, she was also the driving force that created the Carter Children's Center. There, young people born into a neighborhood that others too often overlook, could receive food and clothing for their bodies, tutoring for their minds and a kind word that would uplift their souls. This manifestation of Mrs. Carter's love for the children in my District was her most compelling testament.

The church was at the center of Weptanomah Carter's life and she valued the importance of rebuilding individuals—one soul at a time. Yet, through four decades of service to the congregation and community she loved alongside her husband, she never ceased being her own woman.

This, I think, is why she and all of the other historic women are such compelling role models for the young women of today. Their lives teach all of us an important lesson—that we can achieve heights well beyond our initial expectations when we have the courage and determination to follow our true calling in life.

This is how—through service to others—that these inspiring women earned their own, honored place in history.

For their calling became a chronicle of devotion—to God, to their families and to America. I thank them and all of America's women, especially my dear Mother, who are the backbone of our nation and create their own untold histories every day.

A TRIBUTE TO CHERICE YVONNE JAMES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cherice Yvonne James and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Cherice Yvonne James was born in Jamaica, Queens, NY and was very active as a youth. She attended Gloria Jackson's School of Dance from age 5 to 18 studying ballet, jazz, African and tap. She was a girl scout and a member of her school's volleyball and basketball teams. At the age of 9, Cherice joined the Prince Hall Shriner's, Abu-Bekr Court #74 Isiserettes Drill Team, where she rose up the ranks to eventually become team captain. She also represented Abu-Bekr Temple and Court by winning their "Miss AbuBekr" Talent and Scholarship pageant.

Cherice is a graduate of Jamaica High School's Gateway to Higher Learning Honors program. During high school, she received numerous awards including being named in the National Dean's List and being a winner of the NYC Board of Education's Queens borough-wide High School Desktop Publishing Contest. New Jerusalem Baptist of Jamaica, NY, recognized her during their graduates' banquet.

Cherice decided to pursue a career in hospitality and continued her education in Washington, DC at Howard University. During her college career, she was selected for the ultimate hospitality internship . . . Disney, where she spent a summer working and learning in Anaheim, CA. She received a Bachelor of Business Administration/Hospitality Management degree. After graduation, Cherice was chosen as a manager-in-training for the Grand Hyatt Washington, which led to her becoming a food and beverage manager.

She later joined the New York Marriott Marquis, Marriott's 2000 room, flagship hotel in Times Square. For the past eight years, Cherice has held various management positions in the company including the housekeeping and catering sales departments. Just this past September, she was promoted to Director of Services, at the newly constructed, Upper Eastside Courtyard by Marriott.

In her spare time, Cherice enjoys traveling, reading, television and real estate. She currently owns two properties and has aspirations of obtaining many more. She also enjoys talking to others about the possibilities and joys of home ownership. Cherice eventually plans to enjoy an early retirement due to real estate investment. She has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, Aids Walk, NY Cares and coordinated clothing drives at work.

Cherice is thankful for the support of her family and friends, especially her mother, Phyllis Johnson, who has always supported her in all her endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Cherice Yvonne James as she offers her talents for the betterment of our local and national communities.

THE COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the fine, effective work of the Coalition for International Justice as that organization closes its offices this Friday.

Ten years ago, the world allowed genocide to occur in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Shocked by this fact, as well as the associated war crimes and crimes against humanity, many Americans both within government and among the public decided to take action. As scenes of the destruction were broadcast to homes across this country, support grew for holding those responsible for the senseless killing accountable. Some dedicated experts in the field of international justice formed the Coalition, often known as "CIJ", to help guide the development of the international tribunal established for that purpose.

While justice remains elusive, not just in the Balkans but elsewhere, the Coalition has been an indispensable part of the progress achieved in the last decade to hold more people accountable for horrible crimes, in Europe, Africa and elsewhere around the globe. The Coalition, in fact, argues not only for responding to crimes already committed but taking necessary actions to stop ongoing atrocities and to prevent future war crimes. This presents a challenge to the international community and its natural tendency to avoid taking bold and decisive action, and reflects the lessons learned from Rwanda that the international community cannot stand by as genocide occurs. I am extremely pleased that CIJ has taken a leadership role in galvanizing the international community to respond to the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

As the Ranking member of the Helsinki Commission, most of my work with the Coalition for International Justice has been related to what is unfortunately the still unresolved issue of obtaining Serbia's full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), located in The Hague. Despite the democratic ouster of Slobodan Milosevic in late 2000 and his transfer to The Hague in 2001, Belgrade's cooperation with the tribunal has not been good. Despite Serbia's own need to break with a horrible past, and despite the obvious need for surviving victims and families to have some closure, Serbian officials have largely responded only when pressure is applied. Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, perhaps the two people most directly responsible for the slaughter of thousands of innocent people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, remain at large. It has been clear for some time that Mr. Mladic has been protected by the military. Serbia's future integration in Europe is placed at risk by this irresponsible behavior.

The Coalition for International Justice has been indispensable in tracking the developments of the tribunal, as well as following reports of where at-large indictees may be, as well as what access prosecutors have had to evidence and witnesses. The Coalition also has done excellent work in analyzing the work of the tribunal itself. This has been important.

International justice is a relatively new phenomenon, and things have not always developed smoothly. The Coalition has not been an apologist for ICTY or the other war crimes tribunals, and has brought attention to areas where improvement was needed. The Coalition should take great satisfaction that today, 10 years after genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the war crimes chamber of Bosnia's court system now has the ability to handle the emotional and controversial cases from that dark time.

The staff of the Coalition for International Justice has always been outstanding, and has provided critical assistance to myself, my personal staff, and the Helsinki Commission staff that work on these issues. CIJ staff have been more than willing and able to help those of us in Congress who have worked to ensure common concerns about international justice are appropriately reflected in U.S. foreign policy. Board members Mark Ellis, John Heffernan and Jim Hooper were involved from the earliest days, when few were certain justice would even be considered in diplomatic efforts to bring peace and stability to the Balkans. Staff past and present, including Edgar Chen, Stefanie Frease and Eric Witte, provided expertise not only on the work of the tribunals but also on the countries and conflicts the tribunals were created to address. I want to highlight in particular Nina Bang-Jessen, CIJ's Executive Director, who so effectively combined expertise and advocacy. She oversaw the Coalition as it broadened its focus to include not only the former Yugoslavia but Rwanda, Cambodia, Sierra Leone and today, Darfur.

Ongoing humanitarian catastrophes, Mr. Speaker, may frustrate us, but those who have worked at the Coalition for International Justice can take satisfaction knowing they did something about it and advanced the cause of international justice beyond where it otherwise would be. They have saved lives and brought war criminals to justice, and played a role in preventing future crimes against humanity. For that, we owe them our thanks and best wishes.

VA EXPERIENCE SHOWS BENEFIT OF GOVERNMENT ROLE IN HEALTHCARE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one obstacle we have when we seek to address what is clearly the number one domestic problem in America today—a healthcare system that is both unduly expensive and provides too little coverage for many Americans—is the objection to what some people are quick to call “socialized medicine.” The notion that a government role in healthcare is somehow inimical to the delivery of decent healthcare has prevented rational debate on this subject from going forward. Paradoxically, as the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson, recently noted in his speech at the Press Club, it is the healthcare delivery system in our country that is most completely a government operation that scores highest in consumer satisfaction. As Secretary Nicholson

noted in that speech, “For the sixth consecutive year, the American Customer Satisfaction Index reports that veterans are more satisfied with their health care than any other patients in America. VA outscored the private sector by a full 10 percentage points. And as you would expect, because of our first-rate care, veterans are now coming to us in ever greater numbers.”

Mr. Speaker, the point must be underlined: the most popular form of medical care with those who receive it according to Secretary Nicholson, speaking on behalf of the Bush Administration, is a form of medicine that is entirely government run. I find it odd that people who would denounce Medicare as a form of “socialized medicine” don’t apply that dreaded epithet to the one major medical care delivery system in our country which is entirely run by the public sector—the medical care delivered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I ask that excerpts from Secretary Nicholson’s speech be printed here because they are an absolutely irrefutable answer to those who claim that any increase in a government role in medical care will somehow cause deterioration in the quality of that care. The ability of some myths to survive reality is one of the most impressive and depressing features of the American political scene. But I hope that people reading Secretary Nicholson’s remarks, and thinking about what they mean in the broader context, will refrain in the future from somehow arguing that an increase in a public sector role in medical care will necessarily lead to its deterioration. I join Secretary Nicholson as a Member of Congress in taking pride in the medical care we provide for our veterans. My only criticism is that we don’t do it in even greater quantity—too many veterans are unable to get access to the system, and I believe that it is an area where more resources would allow us to do an even better job. But again to quote from Secretary Nicholson’s speech, when the “NBC Nightly News . . . aired a story about VA healthcare, saying that it is the envy of healthcare administrators and a model for healthcare nationwide,” it ought to give pause to those who mindlessly repeat the assertion that quality medical care and a government role are incompatible.

The VA is, I think, truly one of America’s good news stories. Following a decade-long healthcare transformation, the VA is now at the forefront of America’s healthcare industry. And it’s not just a proud secretary saying that, but a host of other organizations within and outside of the healthcare community saying that about us. For example, the Journal of American Medical Association has applauded the VA’s dedication to patient safety. The Washington Monthly magazine a few months ago had a feature article calling VA health care, quote, “the best care anywhere.”

U.S. News and World Report described the VA as the home of top-notch health care in its annual best-hospitals issue. And since you’re sitting down, I won’t shock you unduly by telling you even The New York Times recently said that the VA is a model for our nation. And very recently, I think last week or the week before, on the NBC Nightly News was aired a story about VA healthcare, saying that it is the envy of healthcare administrators and a model for health care nationwide.

And we are a model of humanitarian service in our communities as well. Our VA employees come to the aid of their communities and their citizens—veterans and non-vet-

erans alike—in times of disasters and other emergencies. To make my point, I need only to mention the heroic effects and efforts of VA employees during Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Not only did our staffs evacuate several hundred patients out of our hospitals in the Gulf area to other hospitals without losing one, and not only did they do it quickly and efficiently, at great personal risk to themselves and at great personal sacrifice and loss. One nurse told me in Houston, where we relocated patients, that she for four days could see her house in New Orleans, and she could see only the roof and the chimney, but she went with her patients when we evacuated them, not even knowing the disposition of her own family.

And when it’s all said and done, it’s the millions of the men and women who we care for, though, who are our biggest supporters. For the sixth consecutive year, the American Customer Satisfaction Index reports that veterans are more satisfied with their health care than any other patients in America. VA outscored the private sector by a full 10 percentage points. And as you would expect, because of our first-rate care, veterans are now coming to us in ever greater numbers. Fully 7.7 million are now enrolled in our system.

This year VA doctors and nurses will treat over 5.3 million veterans at one of our 14 points of healthcare access. That’s an increase of more than 1 million veterans coming to us since President Bush came to office. We expect this year that we will have 60 million patient encounters; that is, 60 million visits to our centers, clinics and hospitals. We have 154 major hospitals and over 900 clinics, and we dispense pharmaceutical prescriptions to over three—excuse me, over 230 million times.

We’ve achieved something that no other major integrated provider has ever yet been able to do, and that is that every one of these 7.7 million veterans enrolled in our system has an electronic medical record.

Time precludes me from telling you all of the advantages of safety and good medicine that that gives us, but let me mention anecdotally a couple of things.

One, a young man came through Ronald Reagan airport. He was a diabetic. His insulin was in his luggage, and they lost his luggage. And he called his father in South Carolina, panicking, and his father said, “Call the VA,” because he was a veteran.

He called our VA hospital here in north Washington. They said, “Get in a cab and come out here.” And by the time he got there, they had his medical record dialed up, knew his insulin regime, administered to him, gave him a supply and sent him on his way.

And during that relocation of hundreds of patients in Katrina, we were able in every case, after we got them resettled into another hospital, to dial up their medical record.

So electronic health records and their advantages to patient safety, for telemedicine, have put us at the forefront in health care delivery in this country, and we are very proud of that achievement. And I can say that because it didn’t happen in the 14 months that I’ve been in the job. So I’m sitting on the shoulders of those who did make it happen. But it is a seminal achievement in health care.

Two weeks ago I announced the creation of another front of technological initiative at the VA, which has the potential for untold ramifications in health care, and that’s the creation of a new Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee, which will be to help me establish policies for using genetic information to help improve the medical care of our veterans.

The VA's commitment to move into this realm of research, to advance our knowledge of the relationship of the genome to a host of physical and mental conditions relevant to veterans, is completely in keeping with the investigative nature of VA medicine. For 75 years our researchers and clinicians have been breaking exciting ground in virtually every aspect of medicine, with most of their work resulting in new and better ways to treat the myriad illnesses of our veterans. From Nobel Prize-winning researchers—and the VA's had three Nobel Prize winners—from Nobel Prize winners to the CAT scan to paperless records technologies, to kidney transplants, to microchip-drive prosthetics, to medical school partnerships that have trained more than half of our nation's physicians today, we are leading the world in our care for our veterans.

As I've outlined, we've done a great job so far. We are a world-class healthcare network when it comes to treating existing illnesses and disabilities. But then we ask ourselves, what if we knew how to identify the earliest possible signs of a veteran's predisposition to a particular disease? What if we knew in advance how a veteran would react to a particular drug therapy? What if we could reasonably forecast the risks a particular veteran might face with respect to some forms of cancer? What if, summing up, we could move from providing medicine that is preventative to medicine that is predictive?

With the advent of the Genomic Medicine Advisory Committee, we are positioning the VA to take a new journey, a truly great journey along the DNA trail. It is a path still not well lighted. There are so many questions of ethics and privacy that we are not going to proceed down that trail without first assessing the risks and benefits to our veterans. But we know from past experience that once we determine that a VA program is in the best interest of our veterans, we move forward with all the resources we can muster.

And when VA health care is on the move, we change the nation's healthcare landscape for the better. As medical practice incorporates the advances of science, we must harness VA's triple mission of health care, research and training to bring these advances to the veterans we serve.

I'm confident our new push down the genomic road will benefit not only our veterans, but the larger national health care community as a whole, as so much of our other research has done, such as the development of the CAT scan and the pacemaker and the first liver transplant done at the VA.

A TRIBUTE TO PARTHENIA HOLLIDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Parthenia R. Holliday and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Parthenia R. Holliday was born in Philadelphia, PA.

Her childhood years were like so many others filled with challenges, crossroads and hur-

dles that seemed uncrossable. At the tender age of 16 she knew her life long dream and desire was the wonderful art of singing. Her father and other sibling also were musically inclined and played instruments and sang, and so it was in her blood to sing and sing she did.

Ms. Holliday sang all over the world from Budapest, Hungary, Russia, Africa, and most recently in 2005 in London, England. She has also performed with Alvin Slaughter and others.

Ms. Holliday sang in many establishments in New York City and New Jersey. Unfortunately, Ms. Holliday found herself entangled in substances that were not healthy, or helpful for her continued growth and high self-esteem. Ms. Holliday's life took a wonderful change in her early 20s, hearing the promises of God, she accepted Jesus Christ as her lord and savior. The word of deliverance was preached unto her and after many trials and errors, the chains that bound her were broken and the broken pieces of her life were put back together again. Nothing became more important to Ms. Holliday than to do the will of Him who called her out of darkness to the marvelous light.

Ms. Holliday combined the fields of dentistry and elder care for a lifetime of caring and sharing. However, she believes her greatest gift is fundraising. Ms. Holliday received a certificate for great community services from the Honorable State Senator John L. Sampson for her accomplishments at the Bible Speaks Church and Christian School of Brooklyn, NY.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Parthenia R. Holliday as she offers her talents for the betterment of our local and national communities.

HONORING MR. CALVIN BELLAMY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Calvin Bellamy on the occasion of his retirement as chief executive officer of Bank Calumet, where he has served the people of Northwest Indiana over the past 24 years. Throughout his time leading Bank Calumet, Mr. Bellamy has done much to improve the quality of life for everyone in Northwest Indiana. He has been an exemplary community leader as well as a successful business man, and I am proud to call him a friend.

Under Mr. Bellamy, Bank Calumet has become a crucial component for economic development in the region, with branches serving both Indiana and Illinois. Today, Bank Calumet operates in 29 locations with over 400 employees. Bank Calumet has become one of the largest locally owned bank and holding companies in Northwest Indiana with over \$1 billion in total assets. Bank Calumet has been named "one of America's best banks" by all three national rating services under Mr. Bellamy's leadership. These incredible accomplishments reflect the drive, passion, and commitment Cal Bellamy has shown to creating a world-class financial institution that invests in the communities it serves.

Cal Bellamy's contributions to the economy of Northwest Indiana are only eclipsed by his personal dedication to our community. Cal has been called on to lend his expertise and leadership to several important organizations in Northwest Indiana. Mr. Bellamy serves as chairman of the Purdue Technology Center Advisory Board, where he is involved with the center's activities to attract high-tech jobs to Northwest Indiana. He is also chairman of the Northwest Indiana Forum, the Education Committee of the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, the Ethics In Government Taskforce of the Lake County Community Development Committee, and cochair of Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana Capital Campaign.

Mr. Bellamy also serves on the Board of Directors of many organizations committed to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana, including the First District Pro Bono Committee, which provides legal services for low-income individuals, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Lake County Workforce Development, the Calumet Council Boy Scouts of America, the Northwest Indiana Minority Business Opportunity Committee, and the Northwest Indiana World Trade Council. Cal Bellamy also commits his time to educational causes throughout the area, serving as the founding director of the Hammond Education Foundation, on the Board of Advisors for Indiana University Northwest, and on the Chancellor's Council for Purdue University Calumet. Without a doubt, Mr. Bellamy has given his time and energy graciously to make Northwest Indiana a better place for future generations.

Mr. Bellamy received his B.A. with highest distinction from Indiana University, his law degree from the University of Michigan, and is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Delaware. I wish him and his wife, Cathy, the best of luck as they approach the exciting next steps of their life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Cal Bellamy for his outstanding contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the First Congressional District of Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended. Over the years, I have sought out Cal to seek his assistance on matters affecting Northwest Indiana. I have always found him to be trustworthy and deliberate in our conversations. As John Quincy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." Cal Bellamy has been a great leader for Northwest Indiana.

IN TRIBUTE TO BRAYTON WILBUR

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Brayton Wilbur, Jr., a great San Franciscan and a dear friend. One of our great civic leaders, he made immeasurable contributions to our most treasured institutions. Mr. Wilbur passed away on March 24 after a lifetime of service to the arts, the business

community, his family, and the city he called home.

A native San Franciscan, he was born on October 2, 1935, and was a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Business School. He joined his family's firm, Wilbur-Ellis Co., in 1963, becoming its president and CEO in 1988 and chairman of the Board of Directors in 2000 after overseeing an extraordinary era of expansion. He served as a director of several San Francisco institutions, including Safeway Stores and the Chronicle Publishing Company.

Through his enthusiasm for the arts, Mr. Wilbur eloquently expressed his love for San Francisco. He served as a director of the San Francisco Opera, a trustee of the Asian Art Museum, and as the 15th president of the San Francisco Symphony, presiding over the inauguration of our beloved Davies Symphony Hall in 1980.

I offer my deepest sympathy to Judy, his beloved wife of 43 years, his children, Michael, Jennifer, Edward and Claire, his mother Dita, and his sisters Lolita and Mary. As they have lost a loved one, so the city of San Francisco has lost one of its most distinguished sons.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAPA EMERGENCY WOMEN'S SERVICES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa Emergency Women's Services, commonly known as NEWS, of Napa, California, as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Since its inception, NEWS has played a vital role in protecting and assisting women and children throughout the Napa Valley who are the victims of domestic violence. A group of concerned citizens took the initiative to address the growing problem of domestic violence and created an emergency hotline in 1979. With the dedication, leadership, and compassion of these individuals, NEWS came to fruition on October 5, 1981.

NEWS is the only organization in the Napa Valley dedicated to helping women and children lead lives free of violence. Over the past 25 years, NEWS has grown and expanded to provide numerous services to people throughout Napa County, including emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and education outreach programs. All of these services play an important role in providing women and children with the guidance and support necessary to help them overcome the physical and psychological damage caused by domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the lifeblood of this organization is its devoted staff and volunteers who work day and night to ensure that women and children always have a safe place to seek shelter. These hardworking individuals have changed the lives of thousands of women and children in Napa County.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor Napa Emergency Women's Services for its immeasurable service to Napa County. I congratulate NEWS on

their 25th Anniversary and wish them well as they continue their work to improve the lives of all Napa citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO LUTHER M. WRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Luther M. Wright, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Luther M. Wright was born on June 2, 1942 in Louisa, Virginia, and he currently resides in Laurelton, New York.

Mr. Wright received his early education in New York City at P.S. 140. He graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and attended Queens College of the City University of New York from 1974–1977. He also attended the United States Coast Guard Engineer Program and received his license as a Chief Marine Engineer.

Mr. Wright served in the New York City Fire Department for 15 years as a Chief Engineer, retiring with 27 years of service. He served in the United States Army from 1964–1966 in active duty, as a reservist from 1969–1995 and participated in Desert Storm in 1991. Mr. Wright retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant. He is also a member of the Vulcan Society of the New York City Fire Department and Past President and Captain of the 231st Block Association.

Among his many community service projects, Mr. Wright was initiated into Tuscan Lodge No. 58 F&AM (PH) in 1978. He was elected to Worshipful Master of Tuscan Lodge No. 58 in 1986; Secretary of Tuscan Lodge No. 58 in 1987–present; Excellent High Priest of Mount Moriah Chapter No. 3 Holy Royal Arch Masons in June 2003; Ill. Commander in Chief of Long Island Consistory No. 61 AASR (PHA) in 2002 and 2003; Ill. Potentate of Abu-Bekr Temple No. 91 AEAOONMS (PHA) in 1994; and appointed Deputy of the Oasis for Abu-Bekr No. 91 in 2002, by Imperial Potentate William F. Crockett.

Additional leadership posts include: District Deputy Grand Master for the Second Masonic District from June 2001–2002; Worthy Patron in Fidelity Chapter No. 54 OES (PHA); District Deputy Grand Commander for the Second District; District Deputy Thrice Illustrious Master for the Royal & Select Masters and Assistant Recorder for the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York.

Through these organizations, Mr. Wright has distributed toys and clothing to the needy children of East New York and Kings County Hospital, fed the homeless, and sponsored young children to attend Camp Eureka during the summers of 2002 and 2003.

Luther Wright is a member of the Good News Baptist Church of Hollis Queens, New York. He has been married to the beautiful Phyllis A. Wright for the past 34 years, and they have three grown children, all 4-year college graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Luther Wright as he offers his talents

for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Luther Wright's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING AUDREY YVONNE WILLSON, WHOSE LIFE JOURNEY LED HER TO BECOME YVE-I RASTAFARI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Audrey Yvonne Willson, whose spiritual evolution led to her being known at the end of her life as Yve-I Rastafari. Yve-I was a beloved mother, wife, grandmother, friend, artist, educator and leader in our community and our world. She passed away on March 13, 2006 at the age of 63.

Born Audrey Yvonne Willson, she grew up in the Fort Greene Projects of Brooklyn, New York, where she developed the quick wit and savvy nature for which she was known throughout her life. Living in New York, she met and married Bob Law in 1962. During that period, she became an active member of the Congress for Racial Equality, and was at the forefront of the Black Cultural/Consciousness movement, identifying strongly with her African heritage as an activist of that era and throughout her life.

In the decade that followed, Audrey began a new journey, moving to Silver Spring, Maryland and obtaining her Masters Degree in Education as well as her Montessori certification. These achievements began her lifelong devotion to the education and healthy development of children, which included her own young daughters, and ultimately led Audrey to create her own educational model.

Audrey's journey of intellectual, cultural and spiritual discovery soon led her to West Africa, where she immediately fell in love with the people, their land, and their struggles. Her proficiency in the Spanish, Twi, Amharic and Arabic languages allowed her to be a teacher and a student of the people she met there, and through her travels she forged human and spiritual ties that would last a lifetime.

In the years that followed, her newfound faith of Islam led her to change her name to Ameena, and during her time in Africa she met and married her second husband, an American named Daud Malik Watts. Upon her return to the United States, she rededicated herself to her life's mission of serving our young people by opening, with Daud, the Reston Montessori School in Virginia.

As she continued her spiritual exploration in the 1980s, she was led to return to her birth name of Audrey. During that time she also traveled frequently to the west coast and split her time between working in the non-profit sector and developing her own small business selling her delicious homemade apple pies.

As she neared the conclusion of her spiritual journey, she changed her name to Yve-I Rastafari, which was a reflection of her becoming a Rastafarian. In the 1990s, when she underwent this transition, she also moved to

Hawaii, where she started Artists for Orphans, an international non-profit dedicated to providing educational, financial, physical and emotional support to orphans in Ethiopia.

After devoting herself to this bold, compassionate work for more than a decade, Yve-I left Hawaii to move back northeast to be with her ailing father, caring for him until his last day. After his passing, she returned to working with young children in Washington, D.C. before ultimately moving to California to be with and care for her youngest grandchildren.

Yve-I gave of herself easily and was wonderful with children. I witnessed time and time again, as she was the mother-in-law to my son, and along with me, was a grandmother to Simone the daughter of my son and her daughter. Whether we were together at family gatherings on special occasions or simply spending time with our children and grandchildren, Yve-I's generous and loving spirit brought a sense of comfort and togetherness to our family which has not only nurtured our youngest members, but has strengthened the ties between us all.

Throughout her life, Yve-I was fully dedicated to complete spiritual and human development and her devotion to becoming the most complete and aware person that she could was evidenced by her constant growth and personal evolution. At the end of her life it became her goal to return to Ethiopia to live out her days so that she could continue the work of Artists for Orphans and practice her religion at an age-old founding church of her faith, and that is what she did, being laid to rest on March 17, 2006 in Shashamene, Ethiopia, where she was known as Mama Love. She is survived by her life partner, Menelek Fitzgerald, her children Aisha Patrice, Abina, Yasmina, Memuna, Bilqis, Nasir, Mahmud, and Netanya; her siblings Adrienne, Donald and Wayne; thirteen grandchildren; her nephews; and numerous cousins, colleagues and friends.

Today the family and friends of the woman who journeyed from Audrey to Yve-I come together to celebrate her life and the countless ways in which her bright and compassionate spirit touched lives of others, no matter what name they knew her by during her lifetime. Her giving nature and deep wisdom was known to and cherished by all, and will continue to lift up the lives of our young people and all who knew her for generations to come. On behalf of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, I am proud to add my voice to the countless others who have united in thanks, appreciation, and joy to remember this very special, remarkable and loving woman, Yve-I Rastafari.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ERMA BYRD

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the memory of Erma Byrd, the wife of the senior Senator from West Virginia. We mourn the death of this great lady.

Here in this chamber it is important that we acknowledge the importance of the spouses of those who serve in the U.S. Congress. There

is no more distinguished member of the legislative branch than the Senator from West Virginia, and certainly none who has served so effectively for so long. Surely, some of the credit for this distinguished service should go to Erma Byrd.

My family and I have known the Byrds for much longer than half a century. Senator BYRD and his wife have been devoted to each other for almost 69 years. She has been his closest companion and, I believe, his closest advisor. When they first married, he turned over to her his wallet and the family finances. He relied on her for everything domestic. For decades, in the evenings after his superb legislative and political work on Capitol Hill, when other members of Congress set off for receptions and social functions, Senator BYRD returned home to sit with Erma and read, often to each other.

Erma Byrd has been a dear friend of my mother. The daughter of a coal miner, Erma Byrd was a woman who showed great consideration for other people. She was a woman with a backbone and what we would call West Virginia gumption. The whole country of the United States knows Senator BYRD as a great legislator and great orator who can be counted on as the most adamant defender of our Constitution and a champion of the honor and traditions of the Congress, especially the U.S. Senate. What many Americans may not know is the man who has given devotion to and, until her death last week, received devotion from his honorable and capable wife. I join others here in expressing my sympathies to this great colleague.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ERMA BYRD

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, hearts are heavy in West Virginia this week as we mourn the loss of a very special woman: Mrs. Erma Byrd, the beloved wife of our distinguished senior Senator.

ROBERT C. BYRD and Erma Ora James met as students at Mark Twain Grade School in Raleigh county. They married in 1937, at the tender age of 19. In that simple ceremony, a lasting bond was forged, and an incredible journey was begun.

Their journey took them from the coalfields of southern West Virginia to the halls of this great Capitol. At every point along the way, Erma Byrd was a constant source of strength, support and inspiration—whether in raising their wonderful family or anchoring the incredible career of her devoted husband.

In his words, she was a “priceless treasure, a multifaceted woman of great insight and wisdom, of quiet humor and common sense.”

What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful woman.

On the sad occasion of her passing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing heartfelt condolences to Senator BYRD and his family. Our thoughts are with them as they say goodbye to Erma Byrd and cherish the memory of her caring kindness and love.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah in the chair.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to reiterate and reinforce my remarks yesterday during the debate on the McMorris-Holt amendment. I restate my commitment to work with those who want to see improvements in the adjunct teacher corps.

As I said in my previous comments, having been a professor of physics at the university level, I am well aware that knowledge of a subject is only one part of helping students learn. Being an effective teacher is much more than that. Pedagogy is both an art and a science, and pedagogical training is a critical part of being an educator.

Placing an Adjunct Teacher directly into the classroom without any pre-service training would be unfair to the Adjunct Teacher and to the students he or she would be teaching. To raise the level of performance in the classroom, Adjunct Teachers must undergo advanced training. This training must not be cursory, and should include pedagogy and the most recent research on how students learn science, mathematics, and foreign languages. It should also include practical experience with real students in classroom settings.

I want to emphasize that the Adjunct Teacher Corps program is not about replacing teachers. As the word “adjunct” signifies, these teachers would be an additional supplement to school facilities. Schools applying for these grants will tailor their Adjunct program to suit their unique needs, and in doing so, they must include parents and teachers in the planning process. This program will particularly help those educational agencies facing dire teacher shortages, or levels of achievement so low that no one teacher can solve it on his or her own. As it currently stands, many of our high-need school districts do not have enough people who are currently qualified under No Child Left Behind to teach math, science and foreign languages. While we increase those ranks, we can also supplement them with adjunct teachers with subject matter expertise. Specifically, this amendment requires adjunct teachers to possess, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree and demonstrated expertise in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language as defined by No Child Left Behind. Every school, in every town, should have a diverse faculty with pedagogical and subject matter expertise.

I also want to state that the size of this program is very small. This program will be competing for funding with five others for a share of a \$41 million authorization.

It is my hope that this program will have long-term beneficial results. Before it was introduced, I wanted to ensure that the amendment includes provision for pre-service training and continued mentoring of these content specialists. Just as Teach for America has been a valuable asset to many school districts, I believe that these content specialists can make

valuable contributions to schools. After participating in the adjunct teacher program, I hope that many of these individuals will decide to stay in their school districts and serve as certified teachers.

Notably, our focus is on the most dire needs first. The amendment requires that those who apply for the funds demonstrate the need for, and expected benefits of, using adjunct teachers in the participating schools. This may include information on the difficulties that participating schools face in recruiting qualified faculty in mathematics, science, critical foreign language courses. They must also demonstrate measurable objectives for the project, including the number of adjunct teachers the eligible entity intends to place in classrooms, and academic gains that the students should make.

As pleased as I am with the amendment's progress so far, I also recognize that more work needs to be done in conference. Specifically, I am most concerned with perfecting the "Use of Funds" section to make clear that reimbursement of outside entities for the costs associated with allowing an employee to serve as an Adjunct Teacher must comply with collective bargaining agreements. I believe we can do that by spelling out that section 2(F)'s requirement that applicants demonstrate their compliance with existing contractual obligations includes collective bargaining agreements. That is my current reading of the amendment, but it could not hurt to tighten the language.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues for the bipartisan support they have given to this amendment. I want to especially thank my Republican colleagues on the House Education and Workforce Committee for accepting some of my changes and working with me to improve the amendment from where it started. I look forward to ensuring this amendment's continued progress in conference with the Senate.

BUDGET CUTS HARM WOMEN AND CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I join my colleagues in highlighting the detrimental effects the President's fiscal year 2007 budget will have on women.

From health and education, to the protection and development of women and girls internationally, this administration intends to cut funding in programs that are vital to women's well-being and development.

Worse still Mr. Speaker, many of the programs that the President intends to cut disproportionately impact minority women negatively.

For example, in the area of health, the fiscal year 2007 budget cuts \$1 million out of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. This is a critical facility that directs money and technical assistance to organizations working with minorities on diseases that disproportionately kill women, such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

Additionally, the President's budget would cut funds from the minority HIV/AIDS initiative which actively seeks to address the prevention and treatment needs of minority communities heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS.

The budget cuts the Office of Minority Health by a staggering \$11 million and the Office on Women's Health would receive a significant cut.

It's not just health that is slashed in the President's budget.

The President proposes cutting funding for education initiatives for homeless children and youth by \$600,000 and cut Pell grants by a whopping \$430 million—with an award cap of \$4,050.

Furthermore, the President has proposed a \$1 million decrease to fair housing assistance programs for our most needy.

Mr. Speaker, I could stand here all night and list the outrageous cuts in health, education, and housing programs the President's budget would inflict, but I would be remiss if I didn't also highlight the cuts to programs that

guarantee the safety of women domestically and abroad.

One of the most successful programs to prevent violence against women while funding the prosecution of those who have committed those crimes, the Violence Against Women Act or VAWA, will face a potential \$39.5 million cut.

Additionally, women's health is the President's proposed \$2 million cut to the United Nations Development Fund and a \$9 million cut to the United Nations Population Fund will jeopardize the health and safety of women around the world.

Mr. Speaker, our budget is a moral document. It reflects the values of our Nation. I'm sad to say these aren't the values that my sisters in Congress and across the country hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to think about what a budget like the one the President has proposed means to each and everyone of their constituents. You can't tell me we can't do better.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS OF 2006

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 24, 2006, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. One hundred and eleven young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Eight of these youth are being recognized for their efforts toward receipt of the Congressional Award. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 111 youth exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community. It is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and their schools by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Name	School	Age	Grade	CA medal	City
Katie Agnew	Bishop Miege High School	18	12		Roeland Park
Dana Alanis	Indian Trail Jr. High	15	9		Olathe
Molly Allison-Gallimore	Home School	16	10	Silver Medal	Spring Hill
Clare Aney	Bishop Miege High School	17	11		Prairie Village
Avery Arjo	Oregon Trail Junior High	13	8		Olathe
Simmi Arora	Olathe Northwest High School	17	12		Lenexa
Sydney Ayers	Barstow High School	15	9	Gold Medal	Leawood
M. Celeste Banks	Trailridge Middle School	14	8		Shawnee Mission
Annie Belle	California Trail Jr. High	14	9		Overland Park
Anne Bellis	Pembroke Hill	16	10		Fairway
Carlene Bolton	Mill Valley High School	17	12		Shawnee
Steven Burnett	Olathe North High School	18	12		Olathe
Rebecca Byron	Bishop Miege High School	18	12		Shawnee
Caitlin Carter	Westridge Middle School	14	8		Shawnee Mission
Jenna Christensen	Shawnee Mission North High School	17	11	Silver Medal	Overland Park
Jill Christensen	Shawnee Mission North High School	15	10	Silver Medal	Overland Park
Lee Clemon	Olathe South High School	18	12		Olathe
Sara "Kat" Conoley	Shawnee Mission West High School	18	12		Shawnee Mission
Benjamin Eggers	Olathe Northwest High School	17	12		Olathe
Caitlin Ellison	Mill Valley High School	17	12		Shawnee
Christopher Fairchild	Midland Adventist Academy	14	8		Shawnee
Rindy Fairchild	Midland Adventist Academy	16	10		Shawnee
Ashlan Fisher	Shawnee Mission East High School	17	11		Leawood
Jennifer Garren	Westridge Middle School	14	8		Overland Park
Kate Garrett	Shawnee Mission West High School	17			Lenexa
Kevin Garrett	Shawnee Mission West High School	14			Lenexa
Michael Garrett	Westridge Middle School	13	7		Shawnee Mission
Will Gates	Shawnee Mission East High School	18	12		Fairway
Rachel Gittinger	Bishop Miege	17	12		Overland Park
M. Caroline Goehausen	Shawnee Mission East High School	18	12		Leawood
Orriah Graves	Bishop Miege	16	11		Overland Park
Chanel Griffin	Westridge Middle School	13	8		Lenexa
Kristen Nicole Harper	Mill Valley High School	17	12		Shawnee

Name	School	Age	Grade	CA medal	City
Kelsey Hayden	Olathe East High School	16	11		Overland Park.
Alyssa Haynes	Olathe Northwest High School	16	11		Lenexa.
Emily Holmes	Bishop Miege	16	11		Overland Park.
Holly Hrabik	Olathe North High School	16	10		Olathe.
Lisa Imgrund	Trailridge Middle School	14	8		Shawnee Mission.
Betsy Jensen	Shawnee Mission East High School	17	11		Leawood.
Mark Johnson	Olathe Northwest High School	17	12		Olathe.
Christie Jones	Olathe East High School	18	12		Overland Park.
Molly Jones	Olathe North High School	18	12		Olathe.
Atena Kamali	Olathe North High School	18	12		Olathe.
Kalie Karnes	Olathe East High School	17	12		Overland Park.
Jadhken Kerr	Olathe South High School	16	10	Gold Medal	Olathe.
Jadhon Kerr	Olathe South High School	17	11	Gold Medal	Olathe.
Sarah Kidder	Bishop Miege	18	12		Shawnee.
Hunter Kiely	Blue Valley West High School	17	11		Overland Park.
Paul Kirk	Bishop Miege	18	11		Overland Park.
Kathryn Kisthardt	Bishop Miege	18	12		Shawnee.
Katie Lindner	Olathe Northwest High School	18	12		Lenexa.
Adam Love	Shawnee Mission Northwest High School	17	12		Merriam.
Sarah Martin	Westridge Middle School	13	8		Overland Park.
Stephanie Mathews	Bishop Miege	17	11		Overland Park.
Magdalena May	Olathe North High School	16	11		Olathe.
Emerald McAdams	Santa Fe Trail Junior High	12	7		Olathe.
Mimi Mebarek	Shawnee Mission West High School	18	12		Shawnee Mission.
Eric Min	Blue Valley High School	17	12		Overland Park.
Jovana Mirabile	St. Thomas Aquinas	16	11		Leawood.
Amanda Monica	Olathe Northwest High School	15	9		Olathe.
Peri Montgomery	Westridge Middle School	13	8		Overland Park.
Tim Mourlam	Bishop Miege	17	11		Shawnee Mission.
Kate Murphy	Prairie Trail Jr. High	13	8		Olathe.
Marcus Myer	Spring Hill	18	12		Spring Hill.
Emily Nixon	Olathe South High School	18	12		Olathe.
Ashley Nur	Barstow	15			Leawood.
Cailan O'Grady	Shawnee Mission East High School	18	12		Prairie Village.
Annie Oliver	Bishop Miege	17	11		Prairie Village.
Anish Patel	Olathe Northwest High School	16	11		Olathe.
Melissa Peck	Bishop Miege	18	12		Olathe.
Matthew Pennington	Rockhurst	15	9		Shawnee.
Andrew Peterson	Shawnee Mission East High School	18	12		Prairie Village.
Meagan Pick	Blue Valley North High School	18	12		Overland Park.
Ellen Poulse	Bishop Miege	16	12		Shawnee.
Caitlin Powell	Olathe North High School	18	12		Olathe.
Catherine Queen	Pembroke Hill	17	11		Prairie Village.
Katie Rabovsky	Blue Valley Northwest High School	12	8	Gold Medal	Overland Park.
Matthew Ramirez	Prairie Trail Jr. High	13	8		Olathe.
Cassie Rhodes	Spring Hill High School	15	9		Spring Hill.
Chris Rhodes	Spring Hill High School	18	12		Spring Hill.
Katie Richardson	Bishop Miege	16	11		Overland Park.
Amber Roan	Shawnee Mission North High School	18	12		Shawnee.
Cindy Rupp	Mill Valley High School	18	12		Shawnee.
Courtney Russel	Olathe South High School	18	12		Olathe.
Kathryn Sanders	Olathe Northwest High School	17	12		Lenexa.
Matthew Schulte	Shawnee Mission East High School	18	12		Prairie Village.
Michael Simpson	Blue Valley High School	17	11		Stillwell.
Scott Simpson	Blue Valley High School	17	11		Stillwell.
Colin Smalley	Olathe Northwest High School	17	12		Olathe.
Elaina Smith	Prairie Trail Jr. High	14	8		Olathe.
Victoria Solorzano	Blue Valley North High School	18	12		Overland Park.
Jennifer Sommerfeld	Trailridge Middle School	13	8		Shawnee Mission.
Sara Sorensen	Bishop Miege	16	11		Overland Park.
Jessica Stack	Olathe Northwest High School	16	12		Lenexa.
Jonathan Stahl	Home School	17	11		Overland Park.
Stephen Stahl	Home School	17	11		Overland Park.
John Steinmetz	Pleasant Ridge Middle School	13	8		Overland Park.
Kayte Steinmetz	Blue Valley West High School	16	11		Overland Park.
Amy Stephens	Olathe South High School	18	12		Olathe.
Jason Steuber	California Trail Jr. High	14	9		Overland Park.
Melissa Stone	Shawnee Mission Northwest High School	18	12		Shawnee.
Alyssa Strange	Oxford Middle School	12	6		Overland Park.
Alex Szczygiel	St. Ann	14	8		Prairie Village.
Paige Taylor	Prairie Trail Jr. High	14	8		Olathe.
Ben Terwilliger	Olathe South High School	17	12		Olathe.
Laura Thomas	Bishop Miege	17	12		Prairie Village.
Hannah Wallace	Bishop Miege	17	12		Leawood.
Nate Warner	Olathe North High School	16	11		Olathe.
Nate White	Home School	16	11	Gold Medal	Leawood.
Jessica Yeung	Shawnee Mission South High School	16	11		Overland Park.
Daniel Zeligman	Olathe Northwest High School	17	12		Overland Park.